

of belief. 3•But now that the belief has come, we are no longer under a caretaker.

3:23–25

§ 2 • Belief In Jesus Renders One Free From the Law

§ 2.1 • Since His Belief In Jesus Makes Him An Heir of the Promised Blessing, The Jesus-Believer Is Free From the Mosaic Covenant

PART 10

19 Now **all** of you are sons of God through your belief in Messiah Jesus. 2•For as many of you as have been baptized into the *messiah* have “put on” the *messiah*. (3•There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free man, neither male nor female. 4•Indeed, all of you are one and the same in Messiah Jesus.) 5•And, if you belong to the *messiah*, you are thereby the “seed” of Abraham, heirs in accord with the promise.

3:26–29

20 Now I say—as long as the heir is a little child—although he is master over everything, he does not differ at all from a slave. 2•Indeed, he is under caregivers and managers up to the age set by the father. 3•So also with us—when we were “little children” under the elements of the Jewish religious system,¹³ we were in bondage. 4•But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Covenant, in order that he might redeem those who were under the Covenant—with the result that we received our placement as sons.

4:1–5

21 And because *you* are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into *your* hearts. 2•This shouts out that the Father is your *Abba*. 3• As a result, *you* are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then indeed an heir through an act of God.

4:6–7

22 Now, indeed, back then, because you did not know God, you were in bondage to what were not even gods by nature. 2•But now, having come to know God—or rather, having come to

13. “. . .under the elements of the Jewish religious system” translates ὑπὸ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου [*hupo ta stoicheia tou kosmou*]. Contrary to more common English translations of this phrase in this context, it is not referring to elemental principles of the world (or cosmos). Rather, Paul is referring to the various elements of the system of religious observances that constitute the Jewish religion of his day. And, since the Jewish religion of his day is based upon the various requirements of *Torah*, he is referring to the various elements of the system of religious observances required by the Mosaic Covenant.

be known by God—how is it that you turn back again to the impotent and impoverished elements of religious observance¹⁴ in which you desire to live in bondage all over again? 3•You observe days and months and seasons and years. 4•I fear for you that, perhaps, I have labored over you in vain. 5•I beg of you, brothers, become as I, for I have become as you.

4:8–12a

§ 2.2 • Parenthetical Comment Expressing How Perplexed Paul Is by the Galatians' Current Disregard for His Perspective

PART 11

23 You did not wrong me in any respect. 2•You know that I proclaimed the good news to you the first time on account of a physical ailment. 3•But this ailment, this test of you in my body, you did not look down on it, nor did you hold it in contempt. 4•Instead, you received me as a messenger from God, as Messiah Jesus. 5•So where is your sense of good fortune now? 6•For I bear witness with regard to you that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. 7• By embracing the truth among you, have I, as a result, become your enemy?

4:12b–16

24 They eagerly want you to join them. 2•But it is not well! 3•To the contrary, they wish to *shut you out* so that you will eagerly want to join them. 4•However, it is a good thing to be eagerly wanted for a good reason. 5•At all times, and not only when I am present with you, you are my children, with whom I again suffer birth pains until a complete grasp of the *messiah* is formed in you. 6•I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, because I am baffled by you.

4:17–20

§ 2.3 • Description—By Way of Allegory—Of the Two Kinds of Jews Among Paul's Contemporaries

PART 12

25 Tell me, you who want to be under *Torah*, do you not listen to the *Torah*? 2•It is, in fact, written¹⁵ that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman. 3•Now, indeed, while the son by the slave woman was born to Abraham in accord with physical descent, yet the son by the free woman was born to Abraham in keeping with the promise.

4:21–23

14. Here the noun phrase “elements of religious observance” is being used to translate the one Greek noun, *stoicheia*.

15. What follows is not a citation of any statement that can be found in the scriptures. Rather, it is a statement of fact devised by Paul that is based on the accounts in *Genesis*. Cf. especially, *Genesis* 16:15 and *Genesis* 21:2 in the context of their respective narratives.