

A wide-angle photograph of a desert canyon landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with layered red rock formations, including a prominent mesa on the right. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

GALATIANS:

**YOU CAN HANDLE
THE TRUTH**

Punchline

**It doesn't matter what type of child you
were then**

**It matters that you are a child of God
now**



Recap

- ❖ **Paul writes the letter**
- ❖ **The Galatians believed the true Gospel but then turned**



Recap

- ❖ **Truth is straight from God**
- ❖ **Submit to the truth of God**
- ❖ **Have faith in the truth of God**

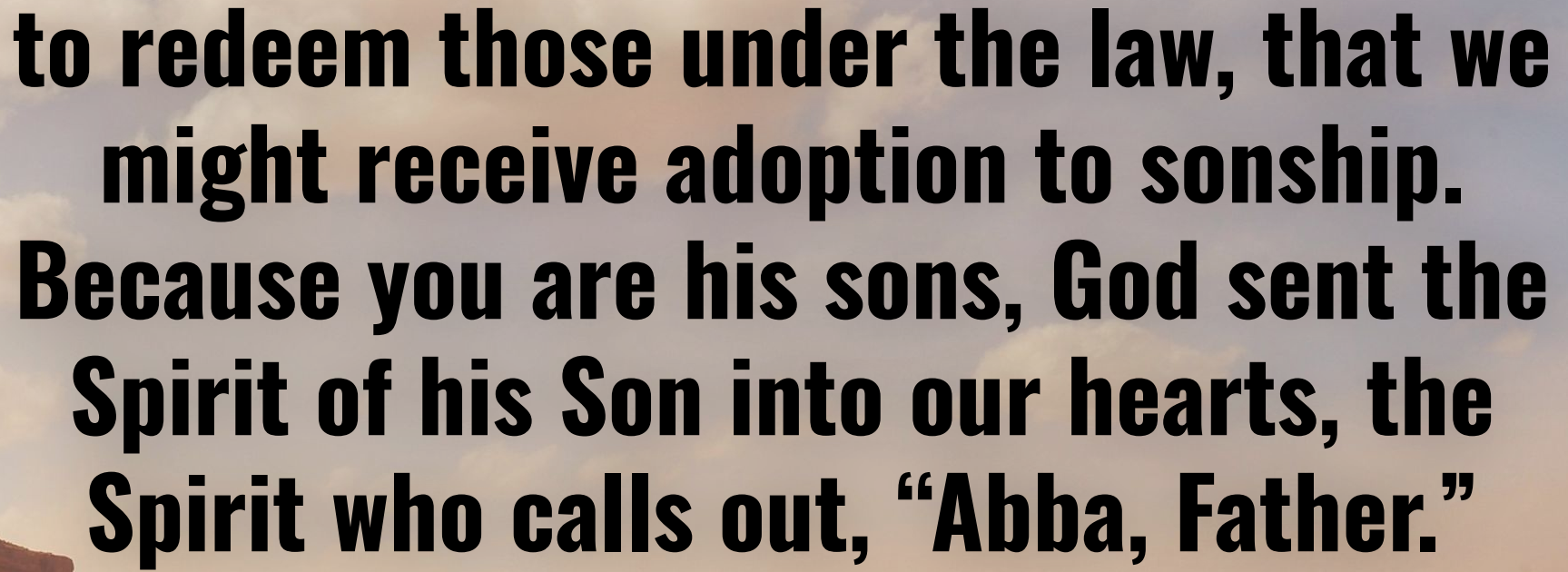


What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

Galatians 4: 1-2 NIV

So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Galatians 4: 3-4 NIV

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground is a flat, reddish-brown plain. In the middle ground, there are several large, flat-topped rock formations (mesas) of varying heights. The background shows more distant mesas under a sky filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The overall lighting is warm, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

**to redeem those under the law, that we
might receive adoption to sonship.
Because you are his sons, God sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the
Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”**

Galatians 4: 5-6 NIV

So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4: 7 NIV



Heirs and Slaves

- ❖ **Slaves = no inheritance**
- ❖ **Heirs = full inheritance once they are of age**
 - **Once they are “grown up”**

Heirs and Slaves

- ❖ **Heir of the truth = freedom**
- ❖ **Came in Jesus**
 - **Redeemed those under the law and adopted those that weren't**

ALL GROWN UP!!!

BOY MEETS
WORLD

SAVED BY
THE BELL

FULL
HOUSE

FRESH PRINCE
OF BEL-AIR

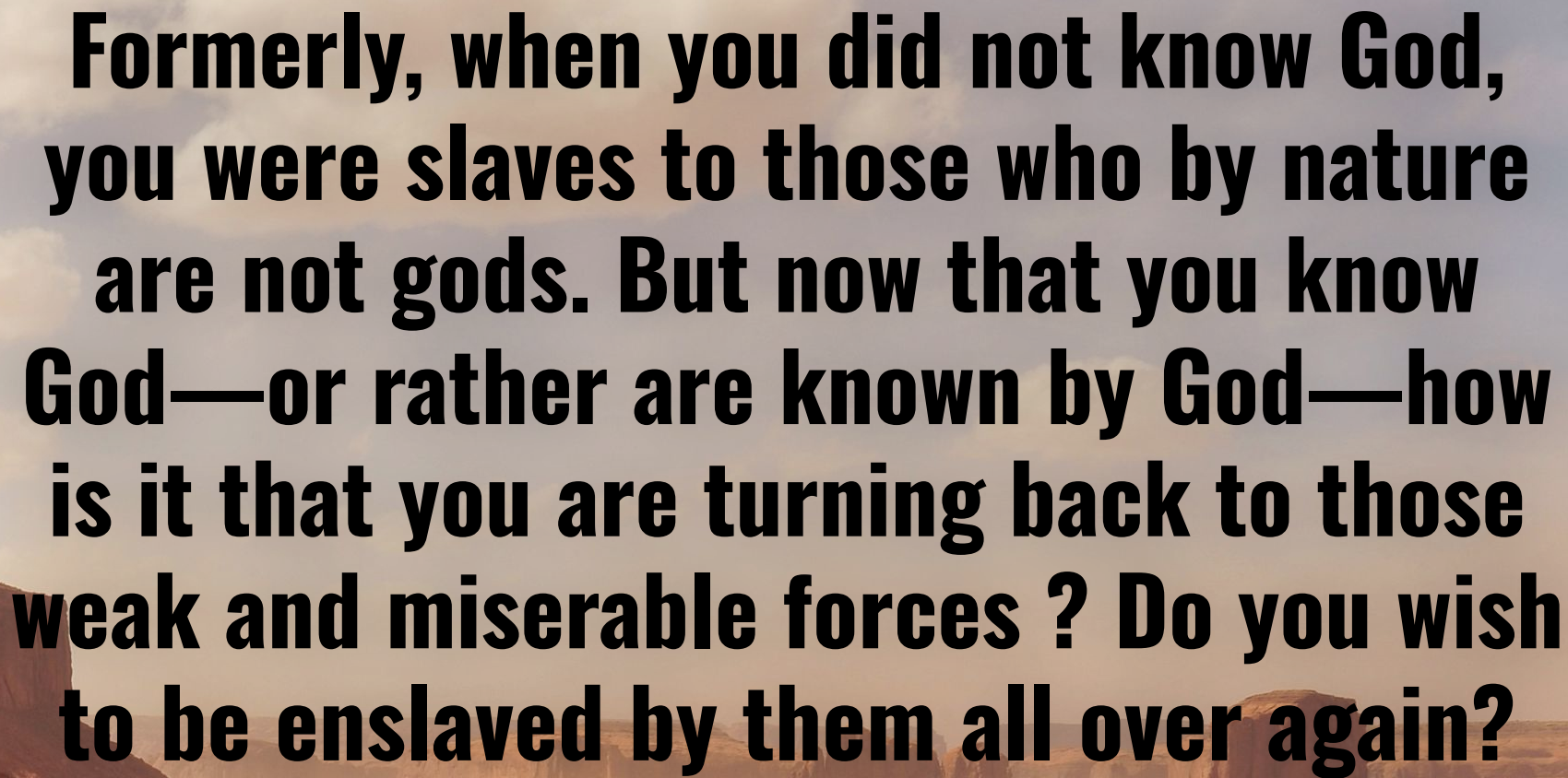
Time to Grow Up

- ❖ **Accept we can't do it on our own**
 - **We need God's strength**
 - **We need God's wisdom**
- ❖ **Growing up is knowing we need to listen to and for God**

Time to Grow Up

- ❖ **Avoid traps and pitfalls**
 - **Have to do with insecurities**
 - **Try do more to “fix it”**
 - **Cope in the wrong way**





Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Galatians 4: 8-9 NIV

You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

Galatians 4: 10-11 NIV



**I plead with you, brothers and sisters,
become like me, for I became like you.
You did me no wrong. As you know, it
was because of an illness that I first
preached the gospel to you,**

Galatians 4: 12-13 NIV

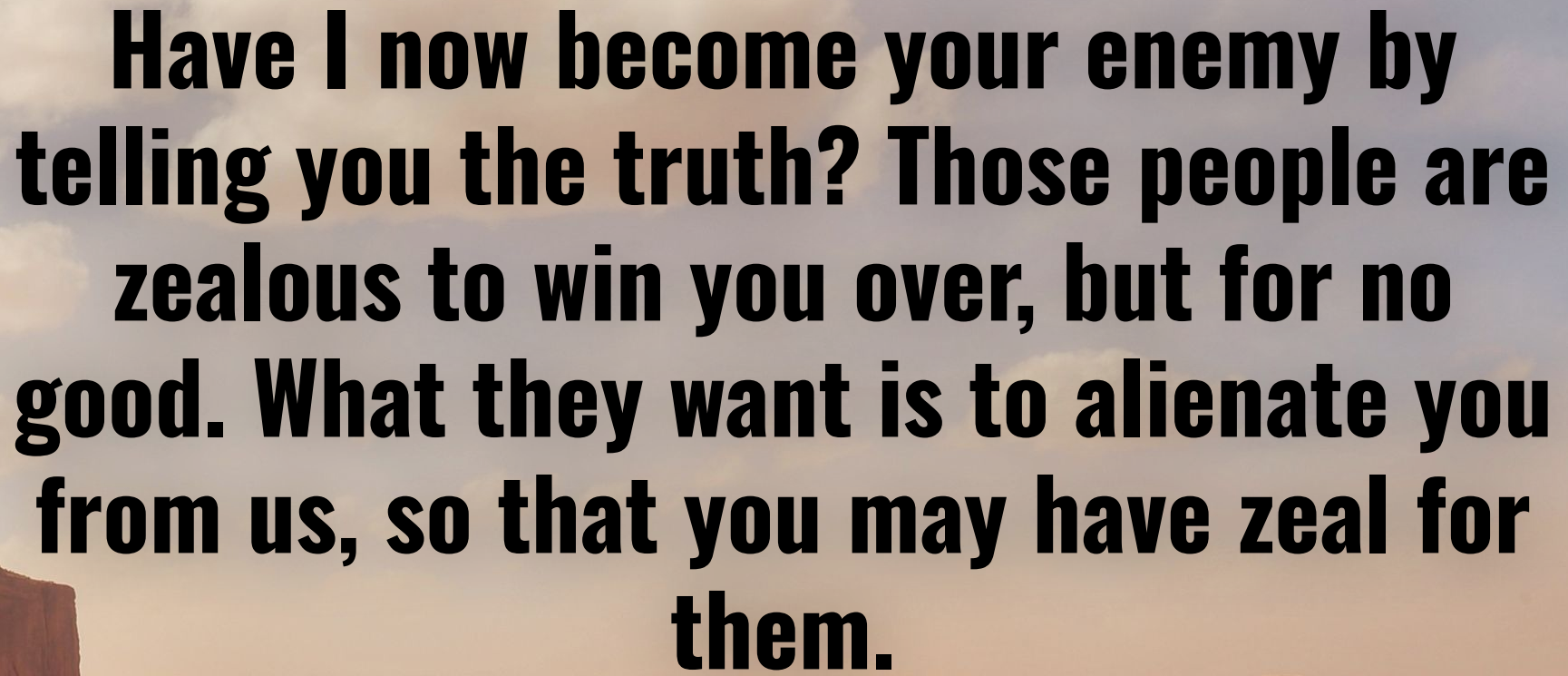
And even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

Galatians 4: 14 NIV

Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

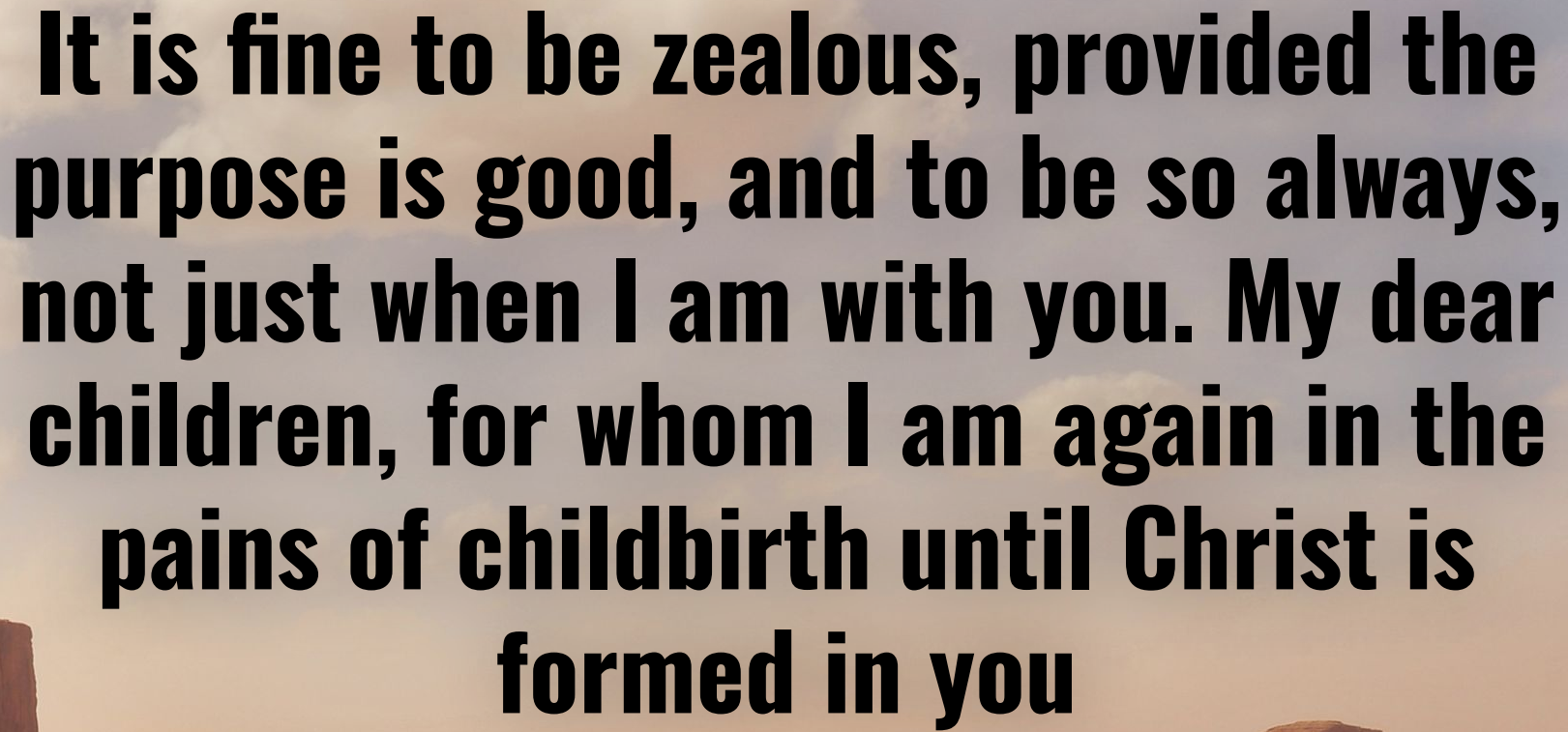
Galatians 4: 15 NIV



A desert landscape with red rock formations under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them.

Galatians 4: 16-17 NIV

A desert landscape with red rock formations and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you

Galatians 4: 18-19 NIV

**How I wish I could be with you now and
change my tone, because I am
perplexed about you!**

Galatians 4: 20 NIV



The Galatians Then and Now

- ❖ **When Paul first came to them**
 - **He became like them**
 - **They welcomed him**



The Galatians Then and Now

- ❖ **They've done a 180**
 - **Because he's speaking the truth?**
 - **This hurts Paul**
 - **He sees them as children**

**“DON'T FOLLOW ME
I'M LOST TOO”**



**“THIS BIO CAN'T HANDLE
ME, I'M TOO MANY
CHARACTERS”**

**“SIRI'S WORST
NIGHTMARE”**



**“SARCASM IS MY
2ND LANGUAGE”**

Know God and be Known by God

❖ Know God

➤ Read your Bible

➤ Experience God



Know God and be Known by God

❖ Be known by God

- Tell Him what's going great
- Tell Him what's not
- Share insecurities

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman

Galatians 4: 21-22 NIV

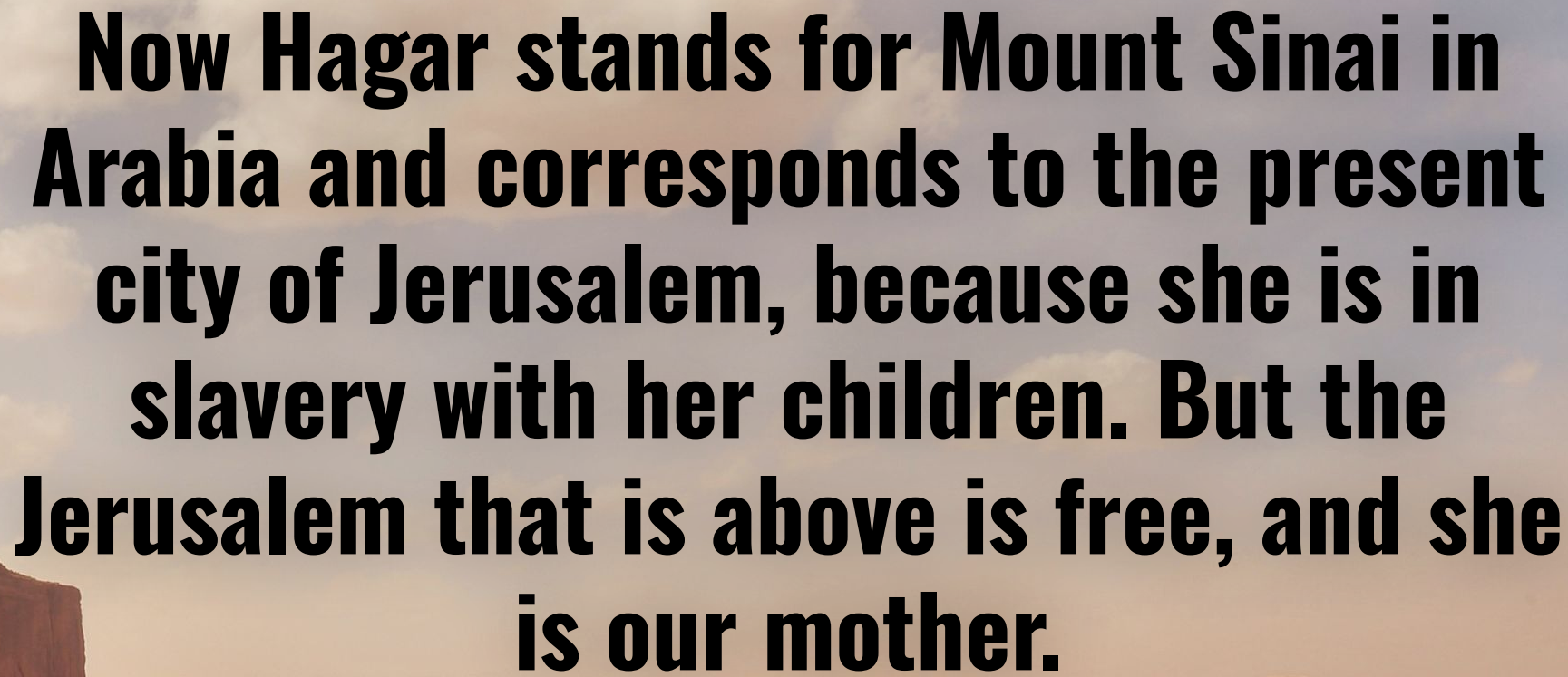
His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

Galatians 4: 23 NIV



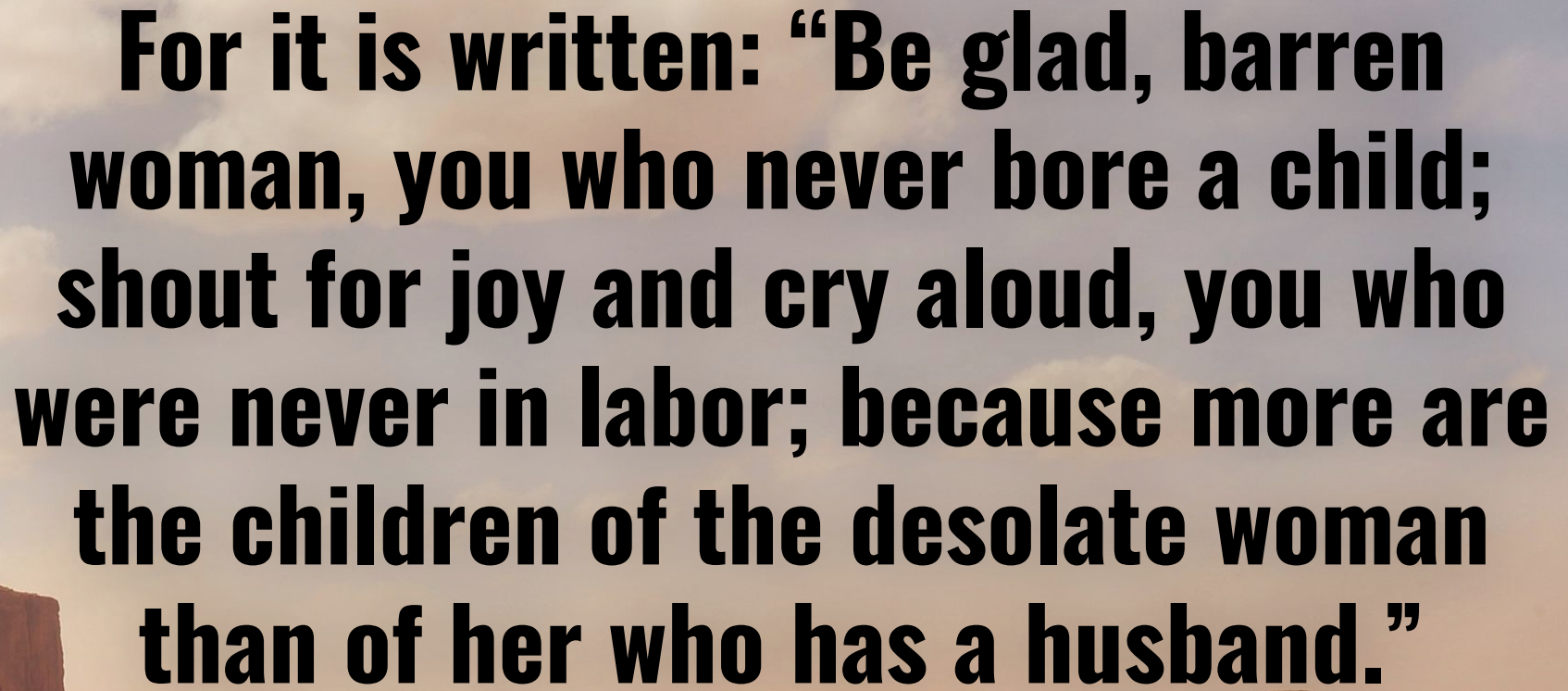
These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.

Galatians 4: 24 NIV

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground is a flat, reddish-brown plain. In the middle ground, there are several large, flat-topped rock formations (mesas) of varying heights. The background shows more distant, hazy rock formations under a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

Galatians 4: 25-26 NIV

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape, likely Monument Valley, featuring prominent red sandstone buttes and mesas under a bright, slightly hazy sky. The foreground shows a flat, reddish-brown plain with sparse vegetation.

For it is written: “Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”

Galatians 4: 27 NIV

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Galatians 4: 28-29 NIV

But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”

Galatians 4: 30 NIV

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Galatians 4: 31 NIV



Ishmael and Isaac

- ❖ **Ishmael born of the flesh**
- ❖ **Isaac born of the divine promise**

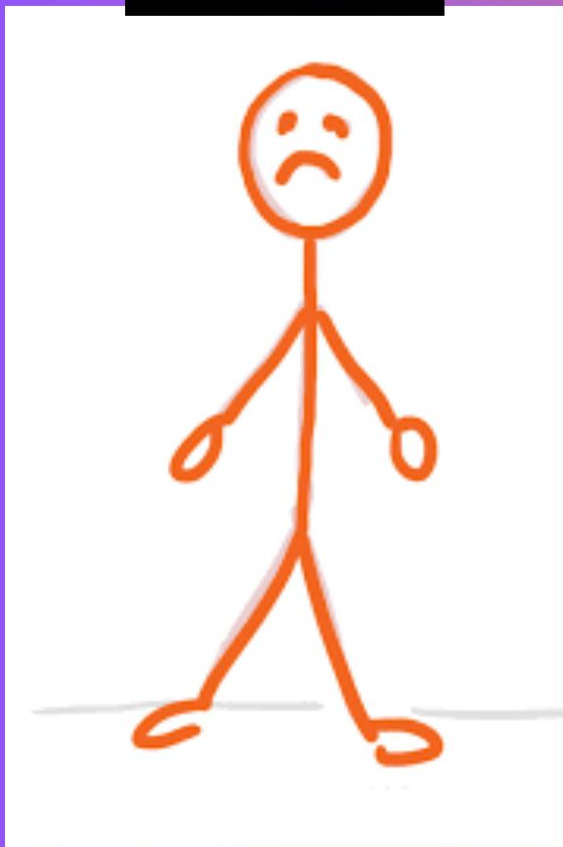


Ishmael and Isaac

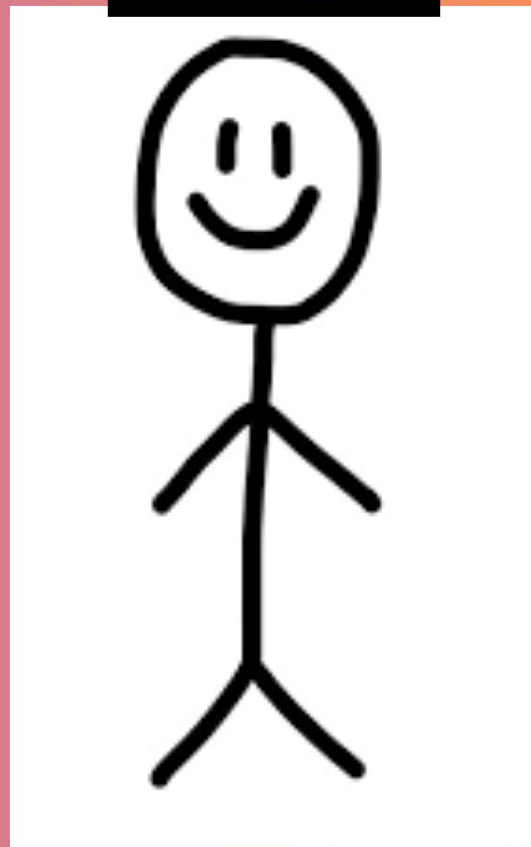
- ❖ **Being right with God by the law and right with God by faith will always be in conflict**



BOB



BILL



Be an Isaac Not an Ishmael

- ❖ **Be defined as a child of the promise**
 - **Achievements**
 - **Can make us prideful**
 - **Need to remain humble**

Be an Isaac Not an Ishmael

❖ Status

➤ Elevated status

➤ Less-than status

**➤ Don't be defined by status,
be defined as a child of God**

Wrap Up-Be a Child of the Promise

- ❖ **Do you need to grow up?**
- ❖ **Do you need to know God and be known by Him**
- ❖ **Do you need to define yourself differently?**

Audio file

[Galatians 4 Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

We were all different types of kids or teenagers. We had a substitute teacher in high school. This guy who was Mr. Roy, he was kind of the classic sub. He was retired like Gray haired and balding, wore like a, you know, a brown tweed jacket with the glasses like this, but had the the rope behind him to hold them on. And he just like to go around the room and he would tell you about yourself. About really knowing you and he went to my buddy Luke. He's like you're just looking for a laugh. And I was like, Dang, that's right. He was laughing. Went to my buddy Andrew. Andrew, you're just looking like I have no idea what you're looking for. You're always looking. Was. Accurate to him, he came to me. It's like Jeff, you're just looking for an angle. Looking for an angle you're trying to like? Weave your way into something I was like. That's probably true. Like I was scheming and trying to figure out. How can we make this work? How can you get more time at my friends house? All this kind of stuff. And it wasn't a bad way, but it just in general. I was looking for an angle on things. We were all different types of kids. As followers of Jesus, we are God's kids, right? He loves us, doesn't always like what we do. But he loves us. We are part of God's family and today will look at being a child of God, which means being a child of the truth of God. And here's what I want you to think about. And This is why we talked about what type of kid we were. It doesn't matter what type of child you were then it matters that you are a child of. God now. Right. Doesn't matter what type of kid you were then we were all something. But what matters is that we're children of God now and being a child of God, being a child of his truth, which is something we have to remember and embrace. This we are in week four of our series in Galatians called you can handle the truth looking at Galatians, how the truth of the gospel is what really matters in our lives, how we can handle that truth and live it out. We're going to be in Galatians for today before we get there. Let's recap quickly if you haven't been with us, if you want to catch up on anything, all these sermons. Are on our website, you can see them there. So Paul writes this letter to the churches in Galatia, and what's at issue here is this. They believe the truth of the gospel, that God, that salvation is by faith alone. Paul came and preached that the problem is now. Some other people have. Them in and started to turn their their kind of their position, change their minds. They were starting to believe they needed to become circumcised and follow the Jewish law to be

right with God. So Paul very passionately writes this letter to help them see their turning away and that they need to get back to the truth. And we have talked about how the truth is straight from God and needs nothing added to it. We've talked about how we need to submit to the truth of God. We've talked about last week how we need to have faith in the truth of God, and today again we will see how we are children of the truth of God in Chapter 4. So we're going to go through all of Chapter 4 today. We'll break it up in 3 sections. It is bookmarked on your table in those Bibles. It will also be right up here. Chris will have it going on the screen. So we're going to start today, Galatians 4 verses. One through 7 it says this. What I am saying is that as long as an heir is under age, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate, the heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also when we were under age we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come. God sent his son, born of a woman born under the law, to redeem those under the law that we might receive adoption to. Sons because you are his sons. God sent the spirit of his son into our hearts. The spirit who calls out ABBA father. So you're no longer a slave, but God's child. Since you are his child, God has also made you heirs. We'll stop there. So Paul starts with talking about slaves and heirs. And this has to do with inheritance. So slaves were owned and had no right to a portion. Inheritance heirs, once they came of age, they can receive and have the rights to an inheritance now in Roman culture, coming of age or becoming an heir was basically decided by the father. It wasn't necessarily an age requirement like we would think of 18 now as being a legal adult. It was kind of when they were deemed ready. When they had grown up before, the Galatians had grown up and basically became followers of God. They were under it says the forces of the world. There's a lot of thoughts on what these forces really mean. But in essence, being under them, whatever they were, it wasn't some sort of protection. It was an obligation to them, and they were trapped and controlled in the way they lived. Contrast that to being free and Christ and being led by the Holy Spirit who didn't bind them to those obligations. So it's about being controlled and under and trapped by something. Versus having a. Freedom. Being a child or heir of the truth is freedom, and this happened when God sent Jesus and Jesus came, as Paul says and did what he did from within Judaism. He was born Jewish. He came up in that life. He then redeemed those under the law and adopted everyone else into God's family and paid for all of their sins. Everyone was brought into sonship and in Paul's Day. Adoption into sonship is a little bit different than we might think of adoption. It usually happened actually at older ages and families would adopt an adult male so that the family had an heir and could pass something down if the family didn't have a son. So the older male is adopted, usually a worthy adult, to become the heir. Also here Paul's use of sonship. He says sons a lot that is not exclusive to. Men here in Paul's day and time, only sons could be heirs and have an inheritance. So by Paul using sons or sonship, it actually lets the women know

you're included into God's family. It's not a mean to discriminate, but a means to include them and show that they also have a right to this inheritance. So Jesus brought them into sonship, brought them into the family. To be. Part of it. So the Holy Spirit allows them to experience being part of that family. It says they can say ABBA, father, when we hear ABBA, oftentimes this is taken just to be like a little child saying Daddy and that works. But it's also bigger than that. It's a just a very warm and endearing term of familial love. Being an heir is all about. Being brought near, belonging and being embraced as a child of the truth. So Paul want needs them to grow up and become an. Think about growing up, I thought back to TV shows. I watched as a kid and back then it feels like there were more seasons of shows than there are now. Like right now it's like 3 seasons of shows over and you can binge the whole thing back in the day, many of us will remember you like watch a show once a week and it kept going and going. And I watched a bunch of these. I watch Boy Meets World saved by the bell. Full House Fresh Prince of Bel Air. I watched them all, OK? I grew up on these shows and I watched everybody grow up in these. I think if I remember, I'm about the same age or right at the same age as Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, who played Michelle on full house. It's like watch them grow up as I was growing up, they started young. They grew up, they went through funny in serious mom. Eventually they would grow up and become adults. They had to make real decisions, and some of these episodes had scenarios where they had to be grown-ups. So we watched them grow up. They had to grow up. As Christians, it is time for us to grow up. That's we're going to say it is time to grow up and two things that we realize when growing up or that we can't do it all on our own. And we need to avoid the traps that are there set for us. We're going to break those two down separately. So the first part is accept that we can't do everything on our own. Being a child of the truth is accepting the truth that we can't save ourselves and we can't earn it. We need God to do that. And he did right. We don't have to impress God or prove ourselves to him. God doesn't need us to get up to the plate every time and hit a home run. He just wants us to be with him, commit to him, and remember that we need Him. We need God's strength on our own. We are not strong enough. Right? When you go to the gym and you go to lift a heavy lift, you get your gym bro to come spot you. Because if you can't finish the lift, they help you. So the weight doesn't crush you. God is our gym bro. He lifts the heavyweight off so we don't. Get crushed and you think. Yeah, but. That. Makes me weak. I'm not weak sauce. Stop seeing your weaknesses as a negative and start seeing them as a reminder to rely on God and his strength. When you rely on him, he will not let you get crushed by the weight. We also need God's wisdom. I look around the room, I see a lot of people that are intelligent. I see a lot of people that probably have some St. smarts. Here's the thing. Wisdom isn't just about intellect and St. Smarts. It's about finding the truth. It's about what's right. It's about insight, discernment, and action. We all need help with that. Help us to see a picture that's bigger and beyond ourselves. God gives that he

still cares about you. He'll take care of you, but seek his wisdom in everything. Ask for God's wisdom. And then here's the kicker. Listen for it. A big part of growing up is learning when to shut up and listen. I've been told that a few times in my life. Maybe you have too. Growing up is knowing we need to listen to and for God. So we need to rely on God in that way. We also need to avoid traps and pitfalls being under the law wasn't protection as we talked about it was being. Confined or trapped. And all of us have traps in our lives that are a little different, but I think if we try to to boil them down and bring them together, it has to do with our insecurities. Our insecurities trap us. We might be insecure about how we do it, work insecure about our finances, our relationships, our appearance. We could go on. It makes us start to think we're not good enough and then we're trapped by that mentality. And that can lead to a couple of things. First one, maybe we think we gotta do more to fix this insecurity. I gotta work more hours, push myself harder, give more of myself to things. That's not always the answer, and it can actually be harmful. And that traps us. What I think is even more common than. That is to cope. To cope in a way though, that doesn't honor God in a way that that we shouldn't, whether it's substance or pleasure, or greed, or purchases or binging or whatever it might be, we start to rely on those to help us feel better. Insecurities trap us because they make us think we aren't enough and keep us from going to God and remembering that because of him, we are enough. Growing up is a consistent and constant reliance on God. So for us it's time to grow up. Let's keep going in Galatians chapter 4, verses 8 through 20. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slave to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you're turning your back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years. I fear for you that somehow I've wasted my efforts on you. I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. And even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an Angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. Where then, is your blessing of me? Now I can testify that if you could have done so, you'd have torn out your eyes and. Given them to. Me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us so that you may have zeal for them. It's fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always not just when I'm with you, my dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. How I wish I could be with you now. And change my tone because I am perplexed about you. We'll stop there. Alright so. Here's what Paul is saying to the Galatians. They didn't know God, they were in slavery and *****. Then they knew God and they were known by God. So then they were free. They became an heir. They had his truth, had his wisdom. So they were one didn't

know God then the other they knew God. But they're going back to. Here back to the weak and miserable forces following rules and observances out of obligation and fear of upsetting God not as an act of worship and spiritual formation. What? Why? One of the commentators read I read said this in this scenario, what Paul's saying is God gave you a brain. Use it. Paul takes him back in time to make his point, he says. Here's when I first came to you, right? He became like them, like the Galatians. He gave up privileges and statuses that he would have had just to relate to them. He appreciated their culture and values where it didn't conflict with the gospel message of Jesus. He didn't live under the law. He lived more closely to them. And the Galatians welcomed him. We're told he had some sort of illness when he arrived, but but they still welcomed him. And this is a bigger deal because an illness could have been a burden to them, but they saw past it and they cared for him like he was from God. He's like, where the heck is that now? They've done a total 180. They've spun the other direction and why? Because he's telling the truth. He's speaking the truth, and I I get it. Like the truth is hard to hear, but really. Impulses. The people that have turned you that have turned the Galatians the other way. They're doing it with zeal. I'm gonna start using the word zeal more cause I like it. It's fun. It means passion and fire. But it's gotta be used well and it's not the opponents of Paul might think they're doing well by the Galatians helping them get right with God. They're not. They also might just want to increase their own status by having more followers, right? Think the Instagram they want the like button to keep going up. Not good either. Either way, it's a bad use of zeal, and this is painful for Paul. It hurts him. He refers to them as his own children. It's painful for him and them to go through becoming children of the truth again to again have to have Christ formed in them, but they'll have to do it because he wants them again to be known as children of the true. Think about getting to know people. We've had this question before how the best way to get to know people and most of us have said, you know, in relationship, in conversation. But honestly, if we're honest today, a lot of it's done through social media profiles. What people write about themselves in profiles or what they post up here. I love the fun ones, but I'll give you mine first. My Instagram profile says I'm my husband. A dad, a pastor, a musician, A griller cook, Baker's workout enthusiast, and I have a link to the hometown website. I'm pretty good with that. Thankfully, I don't think I need to. Change it. You can put anything on a profile you want. I've found some funny ones, some that say serious worst nightmare. Some that say don't follow me. I'm lost too. Sarcasm is my second language or this bio can't handle me. I'm too many characters. Right. Here's what they show. They might show your funny a sense of humor. Maybe you're serious. Your interest, your passion, some literally write their life story on these. They might be true. They might not be true. We need to get to know God's profile and share our honest profile with him. We need to be known as a child of the truth and part of being part of the family of truth is knowing and being known by God. God is a father that wants to know you

and wants you to know him. So we're gonna start with knowing God. Think about a story. And then you've seen the movie. You've read the book and you've listened to the podcast all about the same story. Get to know God from all angles, like that. First off, read your Bible. I know I've said this a lot before in the last few months, so you gotta get in your Bible. We're gonna say it again because it's a surefire way to get to know God. And I would encourage you to read these and not let it become routine. Read in different translations, use different reading plans, listen to recordings of people reading it. Don't skim over familiar passages. You get to something. I've read that 100 times. Read around it before it, after it. See if you learn more. Go a step backwards to learn more about God to get to know God more. And then know God by experiencing God, God's active and present. So experience him live with him, shut other things down and switch the perspective and see what he's doing. Being part of what he's doing is a powerful experience. It's its important experience. God through worship. And that's not just the music on Sunday morning, but through everything you do being for the honor and glory of God experience what God does. And how he acts when you do everything with him involved. So we know God by living an active life with. And then flip that, allow yourself to be known by God. Be an open book to God. Here's the thing. He's already read it. He knows, but he wants you to read it to him. Tell him about yourself. He knows you. But part of growing the relationship between us and our Heavenly Father is opening up to him. Tell him what's going great. Tell them how life is. You being a rock star, start there. And tell him what's not going so great. And then share those insecurities from part one. Those insecurities that have the ability to trap you and pull you from him, share him with him. And so oftentimes that helps them not trap us and do this in any way that works for you. You can pray. I know some of you are journalers some like music. That's kind of my way art. It doesn't matter. Anything just show and reveal yourself to God in a manner that is honest and authentic, and in doing that we let ourselves be known and get to know God. Let's read the last part of Galatians 4. This is 21 through 31. Tell me you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says for it's written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman, his son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as a result of the Divine Promise. These things are being taken. Figuratively, the women represent 2 covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and Bears children who are to be slaves. This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to this present city of Jerusalem. Because she's in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that's above is free, and she's our mother, for it is written. Be glad Baron woman. You who never bore a child, shout for Joy, cry aloud. You who never are you who are never in labor because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband. Now you brothers and sisters like Isaac, our children of the promise. At that time, the son born according to the flesh, persecuted the son born by the

power of the spirit. It's the same now, but what does scripture say? Get rid of the slave woman and her son. For the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman. Son, therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. Alright, so Paul asks the Galatians if they understand what being under the law really means, and he explains it in terms of Abraham's two sons. So Abraham has Ishmael and Isaac. These are his sons, but born two different women. So Ishmael. Was born to Hagar, who's a slave woman, Isaac Kucera, a free woman who owned Hagar. Ishmael was born of the flesh, born by human decision. So Abram had no children, and in Genesis 16 his wife Sarah tells him to sleep with her slave woman, Hagar, to have a child. They did this all on their own, their own plan. This was not the part of God's promise he was going to provide an heir, so they forced it. Then in Genesis 21, God allows Sarah to become pregnant and she gives birth to Isaac. This is the divine promise of God. All God's doing. And as Isaac grows up, there is a time where Ishmael is making fun of him. Sarah. Mama Bear doesn't like it, has him sent away. So the child of the promise was made to feel less than the child of the flesh. That's what Paul says is happening here than not circumcised under the law are being made to feel less than the circumcised and those under the law. They need to be like Sarah and send that child of the flesh away. If Ishmael had stayed, there would have always been conflict with Isaac. Seeing the law as a means to be right with God will always be in conflict with being made right with God by faith, which is the truth. Now, neither Ishmael nor the law were inherently bad, but they were in conflict with the truth and the true promise of God and how they were being used. So the Galatians were to remain children like Isaac children. The promise of the truth. I love the memes online where it's like this is a person and it runs through everything like be like them and then don't be like this. So I found a few. We can put these up alright. So First off, this is Bob. All right. Bob sees something on the Internet that he. Unlike Bob Surfs for meme images that he can post, insinuating that if you were a socially smart person, you wouldn't post those kinds of things to reinforce his own personal beliefs, while passively aggressively tearing others down, Bob smugly post the images to your wall as if he's done society a good deed today, instead of having a constructive, constructive conversation like an adult. Don't be like Bob. This is Bill bills over there. Bill sees something on the Internet that he. And like Bill chooses to scroll past it and go back to what he was doing, realizing that no productive conversation comes from an online back and forth and it could be hurtful to someone, bill would rather talk things out in person, respectfully be like Bill. Now in our chapter today, we don't have Bob and Bill, but we did have Ishmael and Isaac and the idea here is to be and Isaac. Not Ishmael. And we're not talking about them personally in their lives, but we're doing it how Paul references them, which is Ishmael being a child of the flesh, Isaac being a child of the promise we want to be defined as a child of the promise, and we're going to look at this. Really, from inside ourselves and how we define ourselves, we can't

really control how other people might define us. We can do some things that might influence it, but overall we don't have a ton of control on it. So we're going to think about how you define yourself. So think about how you would define yourself. And does that align with how you live and being a child? The promise. And there are a variety of ways that we tend to define ourselves. First, one might be achievements and successes. Now there is nothing wrong with being successful. There's nothing wrong with achieving things. You can celebrate great things that have happened, celebrate, graduations, awards, promotions, it doesn't matter. It just shouldn't be. We're all about because these easily can make us prideful. And then we're chasing after those achievements rather than chasing after God. The achievements and success becomes all we talk about rather than actually talking with others and listening to them. So be like Isaac and Paul's scenario being defined by the promise would be, yeah, you have the achievements and successes, but you're humble with. We can be humbly successful. We can humbly achieve. Sometimes we also define ourselves by status. Think about if you have some type of elevated status, maybe you have a role or status that that matters, that is above someone in some way, whether it's big or small. You know you're addressed in a certain way. You have a title or your role does that and again, having a status is fine is great, but we just don't want. To. Let it define us and it's like how we use that status. You know, if you come across or maybe you've had somebody come across this way to you, that's basically I'm a manager, supervisor, boss. I'm better or more important than you. And those exact words may not get used, but it's easy to feel that way. It's the way somebody talks their tone or how they act. That's not. Becoming a child of the promise that's being a child of your status so that elevated status is tough. You can flip that and even look at less than status if we make ourselves to be less than someone else and not by way of humility, but by way of demeaning ourselves, I don't matter. I'm not important enough. That kind of mindset, and it's hard to let God be God when we're in this mindset, because we don't think we deserve him. We don't allow him to work through us because we don't think we're good enough or that we think we'll just fail him if he's doing something through us. This is just not true. Being a child of the promise means status exists, but it's not the definition or measuring stick for us that measuring stick doesn't exist for God, even though it exists here in the world. That hierarchy doesn't exist for God, even though it does hear. Being a child of the promise is not being defined by our status, but being defined as a child of God. And this is regardless of our status here on Earth. Being a child of the promise is the most important way that we can define ourselves, so make it the way the 1st way you define yourself. Be a child of the promise be a child of the truth. A child of God, and I want you to think about that this week. Think about what it really means, and if you're living that way and ask yourself these questions. Do you need to grow up? The first one we need to grow up, except that you need God's strength, God's wisdom. And this isn't a knock on you when we need this, OK? Think about that. Do you need to focus on getting

to know God or being known by God? Get in your Bibles. Get in the word with God, spend time with him. Put him on the front of your mind, know him and experience him. And you need to focus on how you define yourself. Are you letting achievements, successes, status, or something else be what defines you? Work to change that work to get that out of your mind and be defined as a child of God. It's never too late to work on that and change it. And remember doesn't matter what type of child you were then it matters. You're a child of God. Now let's pray. Got to thank you for this morning that we could dive into more of Galatians, God and I thank you that you are our father and that we are your children, that we've been adopted into your family and that we. Have the inheritance there. That's waiting for us with you in heaven. God, I pray that we would live like your children. We would know you and be known. Rather, we would act in a way that represents being your children. God, I pray that you would put that on all of our hearts. All of our minds this week. God, whether it's growing up, it's knowing you or it's focused on how we define ourselves. God, that it would just be a weak filled. With really living out being your children. So thank you again that we are part of your family. Your name.