

Review:

4:23 Now the Progeny and the circumstances of their birth

But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.

Contrast is set by 2 prepositions:

- according to the flesh κατὰ speaks of according to a standard, here the flesh; normal conception; human effort/work; since it was out of the will of God it was also sinful.
- through the promise διὰ by means of the promise that God had made; this was a miracle baby, totally the provision of God.

Summary 4:23

1. Ishmael's birth not only was an ordinary one, born according to the flesh, it was also the result of legalism, human works outside the will of God.
2. Isaac's birth was a miracle birth the result of the promise of God therefore of grace.
3. The contrast between the 2 births (point here) perfectly fits the contrast between where the Galatians are headed and where they should be going as a result of their being justified by faith.



4:24 - 27 Now the allegory

This is allegorically speaking,

Hermeneutics 101:

Webster Dict.: allegory = a literary, dramatic, or pictorial device in which each character, object, event symbolically illustrates an idea or moral or religious principle. Also a symbolic representation.

(1) There is the allegorical method of interpretation. (totally different)

(2) While the allegorical method of interpreting Scripture is unacceptable, the use of allegory as a teaching method is frequently found in the Bible.

My conclusion is that the Judaizers were using the OT in their teaching and were doing so wrongly, distorting the message of the text and making wrong application of it to make their points.

for these women are two covenants: διαθήκη covenant, contract, even a will

one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.

Summary 4:24

1. Paul being a Pharisee who had studied under Gamalliel was thoroughly familiar with the Jewish use and application of the allegorical method of interpretation.
2. The allegorical method as was practiced by them [not by Paul] interprets the text apart from its historical - grammatical meaning.
3. What their doing by allegorizing Scripture is to ignore what the writer of Scripture [via inspiration of H/S] is trying to say is then ignored.
4. The Jews and many of the early Church leaders fell into this system of hermeneutics referred to as allegorizing in order to handle passages that offended them.
5. The Judaizers were very adept at using allegorical method to promote their legalism.
6. Paul is using this allegory (illustration) to demonstrate to the Galatians that the arbitrary way the Judaizers were using the text of OT was not leading to truth.

7. Types and symbols must also be based on the text itself and are not to be arbitrary.
8. Illustrations and applications from a passage must be subject to or controlled by the literal interpretation of the text.
9. Paul here likens Hagar the slave to the Mosaic Law.
10. Being a slave in the ancient world she could only produce a slave.
11. Those who seek to be justified by law keeping remain slaves forever.
12. If these Galatians, and some are, are seeking to follow as system of works, human merit system, to maintain their relationship with God they are failing to exploit the awesome freedom that they have as a result of their position in Christ as sons and heirs.