

6. Bondage
a. Hagar was a slave
b. The Law was a system of spiritual bondage. Any system of salvation by works only brings bondage

7. Persecuting (v.29)
Ishmael - on the day that Isaac was weaned Ishmael stood by mocking.

6. Freedom
a. Sarah was free
b. The Gospel sets the believer free. John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

7. Persecuted (v.29)
Isaac - mocked by Ishmael (Gen. 21:9)
There has been fighting between the sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac ever since.

This corresponds to the Judaizers persecuting the believers in Galatia and mocking Paul and the Gospel he preached. The Church continues to suffer this kind of persecution. Paul himself had persecuted the Church at one time as a representative of the System of Bondage. (I Cor. 15:9) Now he is on the receiving end of the same kind of treatment.

8. Expulsion (v.30)
Ishmael was expelled from the home to prevent him from becoming Abraham's heir.

The strong implication is that Galatians should rid themselves of the ones who are troubling them. Sometimes strong measures are needed to purge the church of elements which could cause the downfall of the whole testimony.

8. Inheritance (v.30)
The child of Promise became the rightful heir. Gen. 21:10, 25:5. Like Isaac, all those who put their trust in Jesus Christ become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Paul concludes in verse 31, "So then we are not the children of the bondwoman, but of the free."

Conclusion

The choice for the Galatians and for all men is between bondage and freedom. There is no freedom outside of Jesus Christ and no bondage to those who are in Christ.