

**SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians)**

**RUN: NOV. 2-27, 2020**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Scripture: Galatians 4:21-26**

**Wednesday, 11/11/20**

**TITLE: Good Steak, Great Life**

**Quote:** *God desires you to experience life and life to the fullest ... Why go back to slavery when God has made you free?*

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Here in Lincoln, a new butcher shop opened not too far from the Back to the Bible headquarters. I went in and did some shopping, and noticed that the prices at the Mercado were a little bit higher than what I found at the local supermarket. So I wanted to do an experiment. What's the difference between a \$5 charcoal steak and a \$20 ribeye? Well I don't think it takes a degree to know - the \$20 ribeye from the right cow is the champion.

But now, suppose I had free access to either one. What would you think, if instead of eating that high end well-marbled ribeye, I opted for the \$5 tough charcoal steak? You would think I was nuts, or maybe just a glutton for pain.

Paul was constantly coaching believers, who kept wanting to go back to the charcoal steak, when they had access to free ribeyes. Listen to what Paul writes in Galatians Chapter 4 beginning in verse 21-26 (ESV):

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Paul is reminding the Galatian churches that those who are in Christ are free. They are children of the King. In this case Paul is pointing back to the Old Testament. Isaac was the son born of the Promise. Through this lineage would come the Christ: The one who would set people free from their sins. But the problem is, just like the Galatian churches, they would prefer to be under slavery than free in Christ. It's like choosing the charcoal steak over that prime ribeye steak.

How are you doing this today in your Christian faith? Where is it in your life that you are settling for less than God's best?

C.S. Lewis once said, "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making **mud pies** in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."<sup>1</sup>

God desires you to experience life and life to the fullest. Why settle for good when you can have great? Why go back to slavery when God has made you free? Decide today to go back to the Bible. See what God has for you and begin to choose it, and I promise you, you won't even need the steak sauce.

<sup>1</sup>*The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses*. Copyright © 1949, C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. Copyright renewed © 1976, revised 1980 C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. All rights reserved. *Words to Live By: A Guide for the Merely Christian*. Copyright © 2007 by C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. All rights reserved.