



GALATIANS

FIGHTING for
the GOSPEL

A Verse-by-Verse Study

Galatians 4: 22 (NIV)

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.

Galatians 4: 23 (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.



Turn to:
Genesis 15: 4-6

Genesis 15: 4-6 (NIV)

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

Genesis 15: 4-6 (NIV)

He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



Turn to:
Genesis 16: 1-12, 15-16

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me.”

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

“Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered.

Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.”

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” The angel of the Lord also said to her: “You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery.

Genesis 16: 1-12 (NIV)

*He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and **he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.**"*

From Ishmael came the
Arabs

From Isaac came the
Jews

Genesis 16: 15-16 (NIV)

So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.



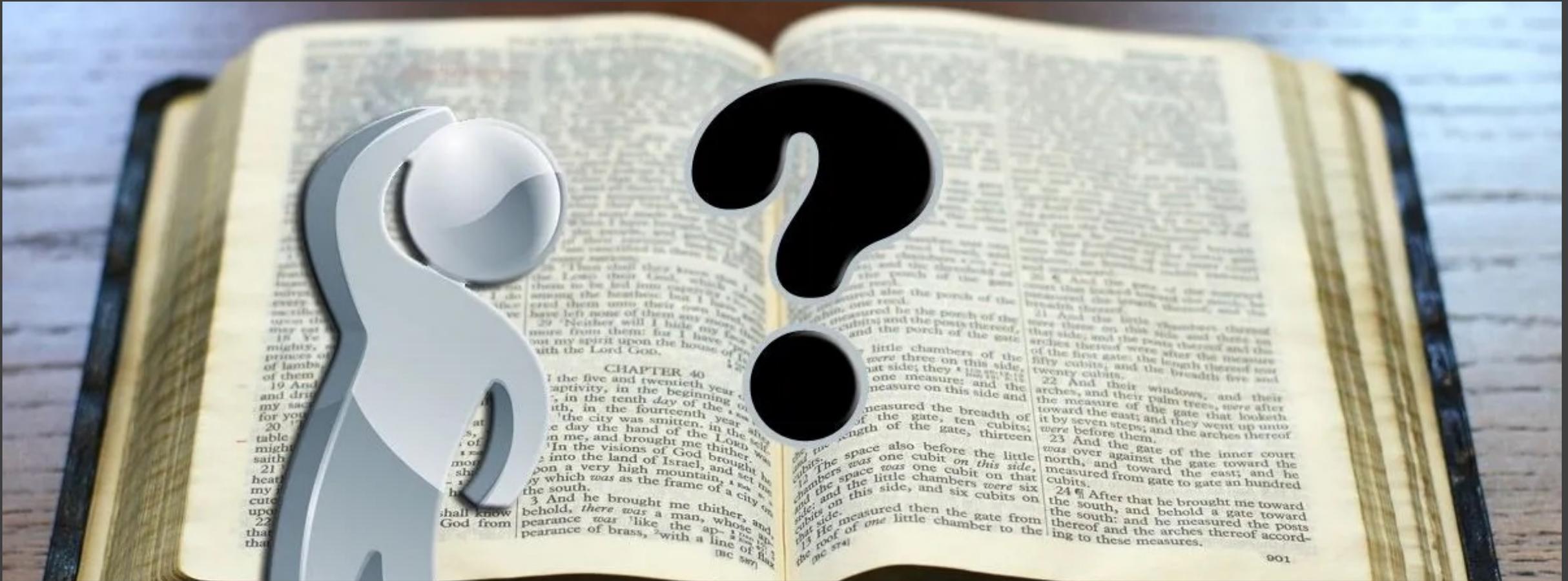
Turn to:
Genesis 21: 1-3

Genesis 21: 1-3 (NIV)

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.



Do you ever notice how we can mess things up if we try to do it on our own?



Can we mess things up by not waiting on God?



Turn to:
Psalm 27: 4

Psalm 27: 4 (NIV)

*Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.*

Galatians 4: 24 (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: 25 (NIV)

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

Ishmael is a symbol of the Law and the flesh we are born into, a life as slaves in bondage to sin constantly making sacrifices to atone for our sins.

Galatians 4: 26 (NIV)

But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother



Turn to:
2 Corinthians 3: 14-17

2 Corinthians 3: 14-17 (NIV)

*But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in
Christ is it taken away.*

2 Corinthians 3: 14-17 (NIV)

Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Galatians 4: 26 (NIV)

*But the Jerusalem that is above is
free, and she is our mother*



Turn to:
John 3: 3

John 3: 3 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Born Again

Greek anóthen

From above

From heaven

Again

Anew

John 3: 3 (NRSV)

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Galatians 4: 26 (NIV)

*But the Jerusalem that is above is
free, and she is our mother*

Galatians 4: 27 (NIV)

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.”



Turn to:
Matthew 7: 13-15

Matthew 7: 13-15 (NIV)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Matthew 7: 13-15 (NIV)

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7: 13-15 (NIV)

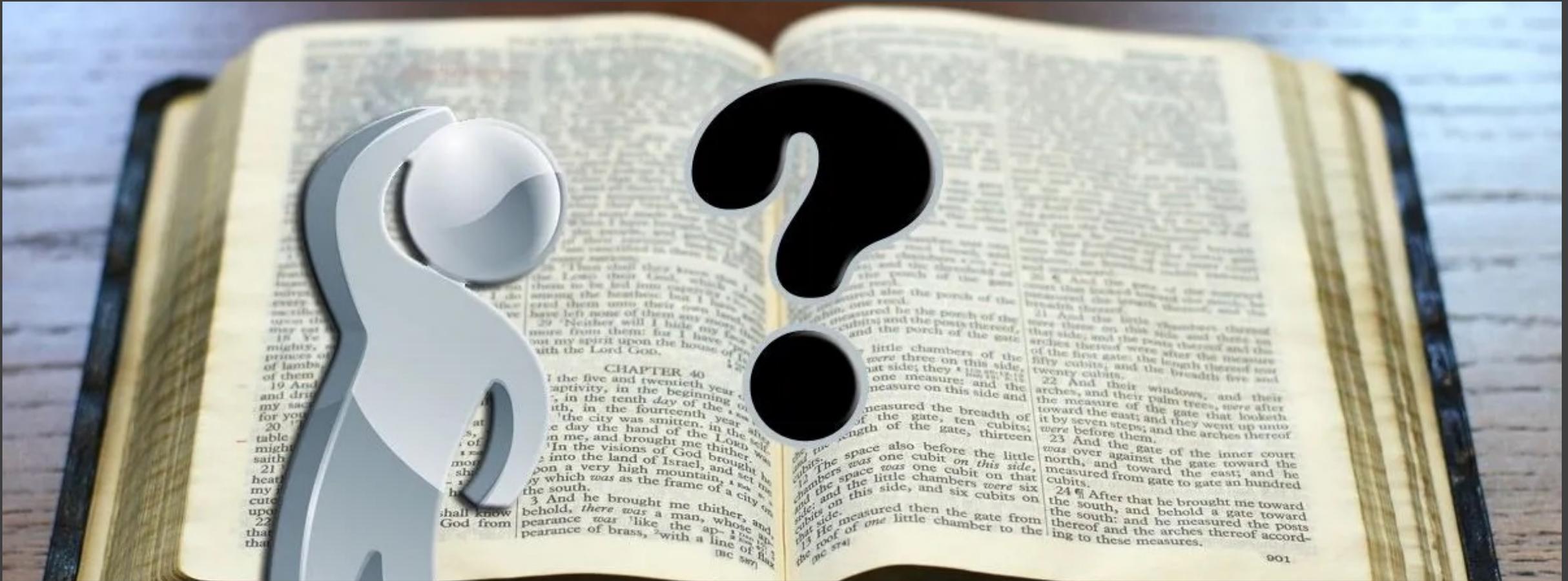
“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

Galatians 4: 27 (NIV)

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: 28 (NIV)

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.



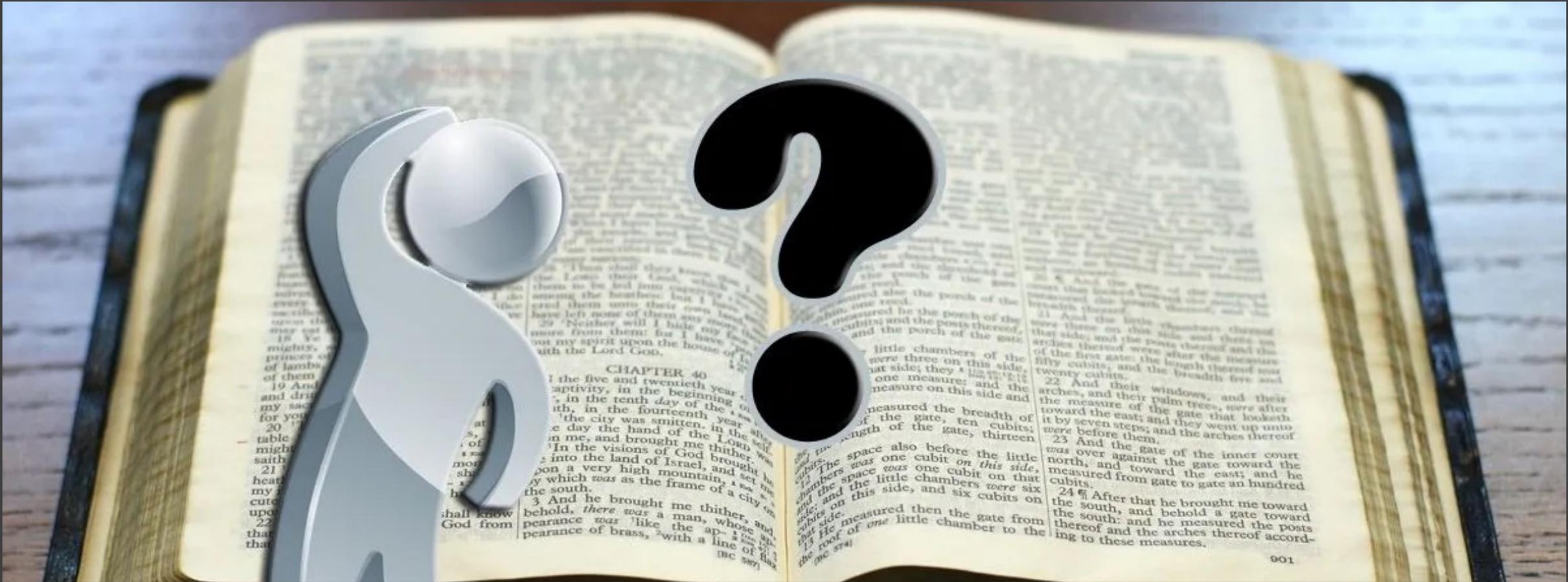
Who is Paul speaking to here?

Galatians 4: 28 (NIV)

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Galatians 4: 29 (NIV)

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.



Who is Paul talking about?

Galatians 4: 29 (NIV)

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: 30 (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: 31 (NIV)

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

Galatians 5: 1a (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set
us free.

Freedom

Greek:
eleutheros

Liberty

To be unfettered and
able to move about

Our founding fathers came
to America so that they
might be free to worship
God without government
interference.

The Bible teaches us that
until we are free or
liberated, we are dead.

Dead in sin, dead in this
world and dead in legalism!

Tyrannical governments,
dictatorships, and
communism all agree that
you cannot give people
liberty.

Because of this billions of people today live with little or no freedoms.

No freedom to think independently. No freedom to desire a better life. No freedom to follow God.



Do you believe that as a nation we are becoming more or less free?

Galatians 5: 1b (NIV)

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. **Stand firm,***

Stand Firm

Greek:
stekos

To fix your feet firm

To be stationary

To persevere



Turn to:
Ephesians 6:14-15

Ephesians 6: 14-15 (NIV)

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Galatians 5: 1b (NIV)

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, **and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.***

Burdened

Greek:
enecho

To become entangled

To be ensnared

To become subject to

Galatians 5: 1b (NIV)

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, **and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.***



In Biblical times some farmers had no concern for their animals and would take an old yolk that had been discarded or broken and they would use it on a borrowed ox. He didn't care about how the ox felt or how long it lived.

Other farmers cared for their livestock and would take their oxen to town and have a yoke created specifically for that ox and no other. It fit perfect and it prompted obedience to the farmer because the yoke was encouraging rather than painful.



Turn to:
Ephesians 6:14-15

Matthew 11: 28-30 (NIV)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11: 28-30 (NIV)

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Galatians 5: 1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.



Turn to:
Acts 15:7-11

Acts 15: 7-11 (NIV)

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15: 7-11 (NIV)

God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15: 7-11 (NIV)

Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

Acts 15: 7-11 (NIV)

No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Galatians 5: 2 (NIV)

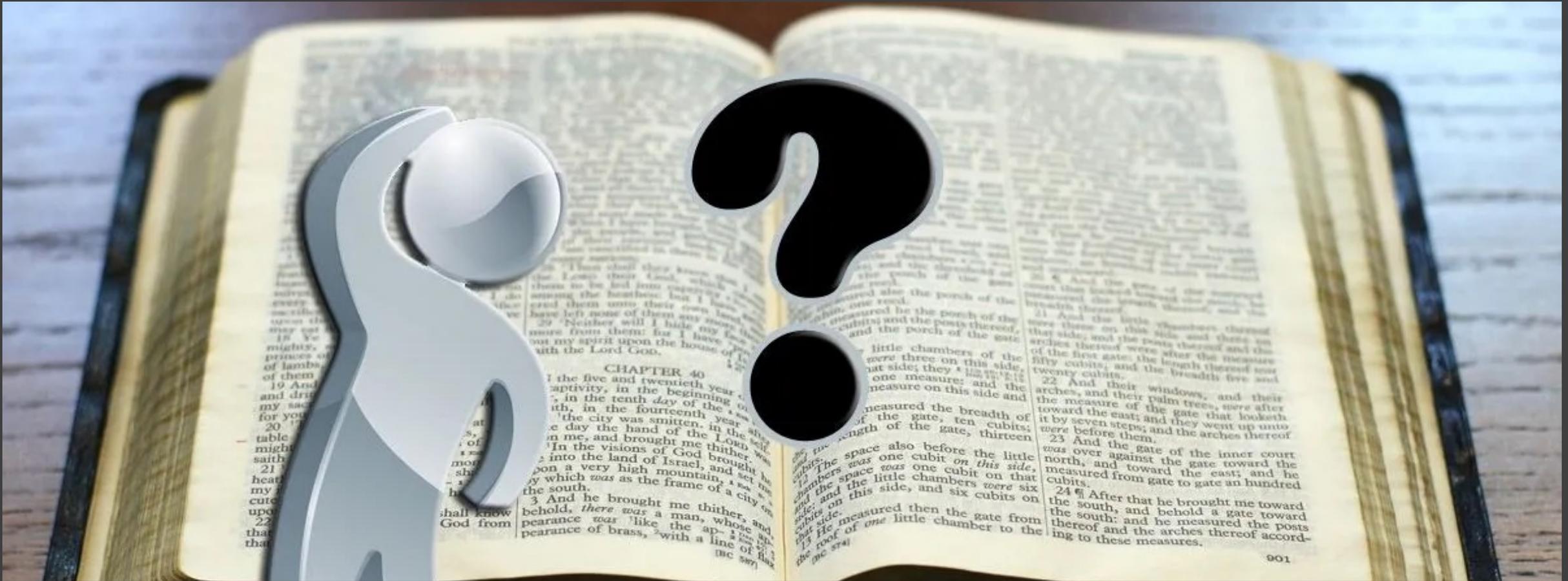
Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.



What does Paul mean by
this?

Galatians 5: 3 (NIV)

Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.



Why does Paul say the one who gets himself circumcised is obligated to obey the whole Law?



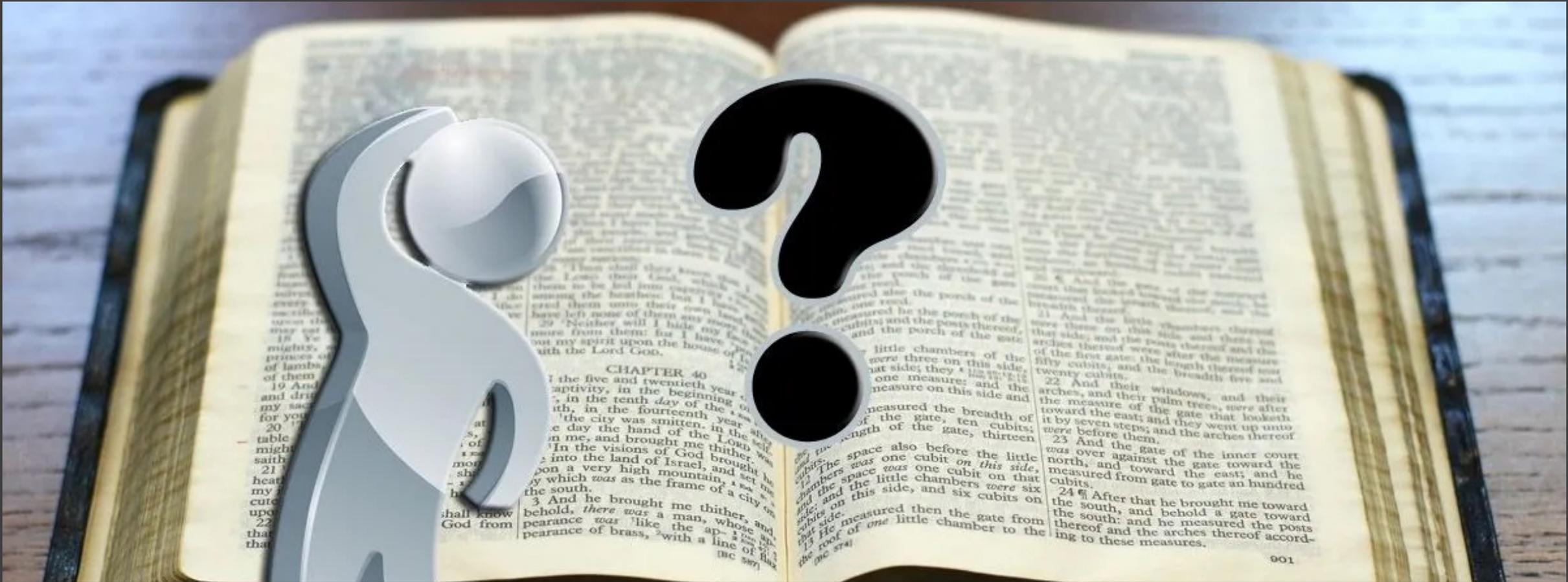
Turn to:
James 2: 10

James 2: 10 (NIV)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Galatians 5: 4 (NIV)

*You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; **you have fallen away from grace.***



What is grace?



Turn to:
Romans 5: 15

Romans 5: 15 (NIV)

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

Galatians 5: 5 (NIV)

*For through the Spirit we eagerly
await by faith the righteousness for
which we hope.*



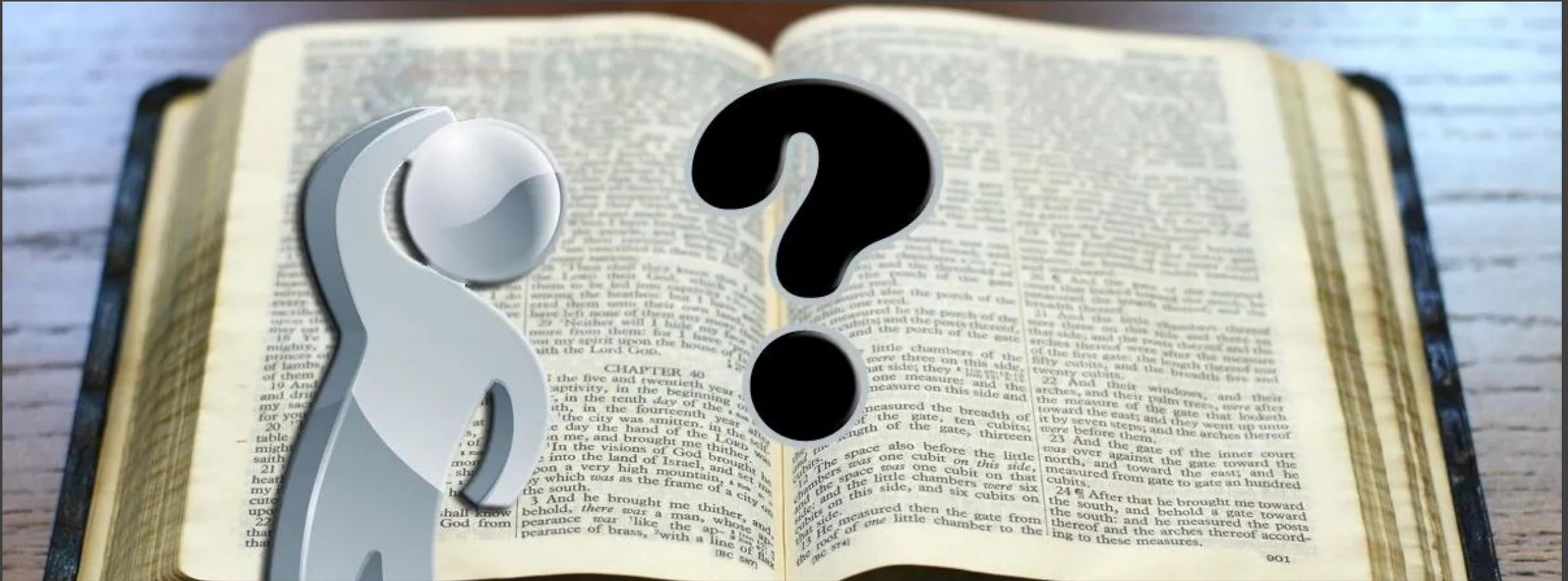
What is the Hope we wait
for?



Turn to:
Titus 2: 11-14

Titus 2: 11-14 (NIV)

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,



How does the Grace of God
cause us to say no to sin?

Titus 2: 11-14 (NIV)

*while we wait for the blessed hope—
the appearing of the glory of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*

Titus 2: 11-14 (NIV)

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Galatians 5: 6 (NIV)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.



How does faith express itself?

Galatians 5: 6 (NIV)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.



How does our faith express
itself through love?

Galatians 5: 7 (NIV)

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?