

Abstract

The aim of the thesis “From the Law comes Slavery, from the Gospel Freedom: Galatians 4:21–31” is to provide a comprehensive interpretation of the allegorical pericope about Hagar and Sarah as representatives of two different covenants (Gal 4:21–31) in relation to the overall context and the theological message of Paul's letter.

The introductory chapter deals generally with the letter of the apostle Paul to the Galatians with regard to its origin, reason and place of writing, addressees, key theological emphases and structure. The core part of this work is the linguistic and literary analysis of the above-mentioned pericope, including exegesis. This chapter takes a closer look at the rhetorical aspects and tools that Paul uses in the epistle, also with regard to contemporary tendencies in Judaism confronted with the Hellenistic world. It places the analysed pericope in the overall context of the letter to the Galatians and further reflects the intertextual dimension of the use of the story from the book of Genesis, including a direct quotation (Gn 21:10) and a reference to the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 54:1). The meaning of the pericope is clarified by the immediately following verse (Gal 5:1), which is the key to its correct reading based on the Christian's freedom in Christ.