



GALATIANS

VERSE-BY-VERSE



SESSION 24 | OVERVIEW, PART 6 | GALATIANS 4:8-20

A PROPOSED OUTLINE

1. Galatians 1:1-12 | Paul Introduces His Gospel and the Dilemma of the Letter. – see session 19
2. Galatians 1:13-24 | Paul's Theological Journey prior to the Mystery – see session 20
3. Galatians 2:1-21 | Paul's Theological Journey after the Mystery – see session 21
4. Galatians 3:1- 5:12 | Paul Confronts the Judaizers and their Theology
 - 4.1. Galatians 3:1-5 | The Bewitched Galatians
 - 4.2. Galatians 3:6-4:7 | The Theology of Pauline Salvation.
 - 4.3. Galatians 4:8-20 | Paul's Personal Remarks to the Galatians
 - 4.3.1. Galatians 4:8-11 | Paul's Concern for Judaized Galatians
 - 4.3.2. Galatians 4:12-20 | Paul Pleads with the Galatians

GALATIANS 4:8-20 | PAUL'S PERSONAL REMARKS TO THE GALATIANS

GALATIANS 4:8-11 | PAUL'S CONCERN FOR THE GALATIANS

- The Galatians: previously
 - Prior to the arrival of the Christian gospel, the Galatian church was made of individuals who gave religious service to gods which **by nature are no gods**.
 - Because their gods had a *natural* schematic, they were not gods. One element of deity is *supernatural*.
- The Galatians: converted
 - A person is not defined by their past. For the Galatians, there was a **but now** experience (v. 9).
 - The Galatians now **have known God** and **rather are known of God**.
 - The word **rather** is not *instead*, for this would contradict with verse 8.
 - A cursory study of the Greek word shows it to have a root understanding of *more*.
 - The Galatians were not previously **known of God** because God was dealing exclusively with the Jewish people.
 - The word **known** is not “head knowledge” but “experiential knowledge.”
 - Prior to the Pauline dispensation, the Gentiles were not grafted into the plan of God.
- The Galatians: back to the future
 - The service of *natural* gods who are no gods at all was **weak and beggarly**.
 - Now, the Galatians are not turning back to those gods but they are turning to **weak and beggarly elements** that bring **bondage**.
 - The observance of **days, and months, and times, and years** is a subtle move into legalism. While a person might not immediately conform to more stringent acts of legalism (like circumcision), the observance of the feasts of the Law, for example, can (and often do) introduce legalism.

- Paul's Position: *an open heart* (v. 12)
 - In spite of the fact that Paul was **afraid** of the Galatians due to their theology (v. 11), he encouraged them to walk together in fellowship. He took no personal injury and the assault they had given: **ye have not injured me at all** (v. 12).
- The Galatian's original position: *an open door* (vv. 13-15)
 - Paul had an **infirmity of the flesh** when he **preached the Gospel at first** (v. 13).
 - This **temptation** was **in my flesh**. The words of verses 13-14 align so closely with 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 that it is hard to imagine that the **thorn in the flesh** (2 Cor. 12:7) is not what is in reference to the **infirmity of the flesh** listed here.
 - At one time the Galatians had poured out their blessings on Paul, even **plucked out your own eyes** for him.
- The Galatian's current position: *deceived* (vv. 16-18)
 - Because Paul told the truth, he had become the **enemy** in the minds of the Galatians.
 - We need to be careful that *truth tellers* are never viewed as the enemy. While they may be the enemy of our agenda or our assumptions, the truth is *never* the enemy.
 - Paul spoke of misguided zeal-
 - The Judaizers had a zeal for the Galatians. Namely, that the Galatians would be zealous for them. Paul stood in the way of this zeal, thus Paul was the enemy of the Judaizers.
 - Paul's desire was that the Galatians have zeal for *any good thing*, even in his absence. That is, Paul was not jealous that they be zealous of him only, but he was zealous that they be zealous for good things. The Judaizers were not good!
- Paul's pain: *standing in doubt* (vv. 19-20)
 - Paul expresses his love for the Galatians, saying **I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you**.
 - This is a clear analogy. Others (sadly) take some of Paul's analogies and create massive doctrines. For example, 2 Corinthians 11:2.
 - Paul's desire is to be present with the Galatians and be able to talk in a different tone, without the doubt he currently carries.