

Believers Together

Discovering the Word Series – May 23, 2023

Paul's Concern for the Galatians—Galatians 4:8–20

Open It

1. In what ways have you switched alliances among your circle of friends during the past?

Galatians 4:8–20 (ESV)

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

⁹But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

¹⁰You observe days and months and seasons and years!

¹¹I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

¹²Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong.

¹³You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first,

¹⁴and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.

¹⁵What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.

¹⁶Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

¹⁷They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.

¹⁸It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you,

¹⁹my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

²⁰I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Explore It

2. Before becoming Christians, to what were the Galatians enslaved? (4:8)
3. After they became believers, how did the Galatians turn back to their paganism? (4:9–10)
4. Why did these Christians go back to observing the Mosaic calendar? (4:9–10)
5. How did Paul express his concern for the Galatians? (4:11)
6. What had been Paul's experience with the Galatian believers? (4:12–14)
7. How had the Galatians esteemed Paul? (4:15)
8. Why did the believers turn away from Paul? (4:16)
9. What motivated the Judaizers to turn the Galatians against Paul? (4:17)
10. What did Paul say in defense of zealousness? (4:18)

11. How did Paul express his attitude toward the Galatians? (4:19–20)
12. Why did Paul want to be with the believers? (4:20)

Get It

13. What are some of the “weak and miserable principles” by which non-Christians live their lives?

Apply It

14. What friendship can you mend this week for the sake of Christ?