

PASSAGE – Galatians 4:8-18

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God - or rather are known by God - how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and season and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

¹² I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, ¹⁴ and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcome me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

¹⁷ Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. ¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you.

OUTLINE:

Moving from the verses from last week where we talked about being moved from being enemies of God to being sons and daughters, Paul wants to make sure that the Galatians understand what they are doing when they live their faith through the view of a works-based salvation. They are no longer living in the freedom of being an heir of God in grace but are living as a slave to the law in their works. He then shows them his motivation for why he came to them in the final few verses.

START (the group):

Icebreaker Question: If you had a superpower, what would it be? What would be your weakness (what would be your kryptonite)?

Follow up with your group regarding their applications from last week. Ask them how they did in applying last week's text.

STUDY (the passage):

Have everyone look back over the text. (Encourage everyone to be looking for something that sticks out to them, something they have a question about, and something God may be telling them to do.)

Ask questions about the text:

1. What sticks out to you from the passage? (Everyone answer)
2. What questions do you have from the text?
3. In what ways had the Christians at Galatia been led astray from a grace based walk with their heavenly Father? Try to have your group reference conversations you have had or verses from the book of Galatians
4. What are the religious rituals in your given cultural setting that people often think make them right before God? (Gal. 4:10 references the feast, festivals, and all the religious holidays of the Jews)
5. Why does Paul differentiate between 'knowing God' and "being known by God'? What is the significance of this difference?(Gal. 4:9)
6. What actions flow from a relationship with God, and how do actions that flow from a relationship differ from actions that flow from forced duty (religion)? Would the actions that are forced duty be considered bad things?
7. Do you have a passion for Christ-likeness? What do you think a passion to be conformed to the image of Christ would look like in your life? How did it look in Paul's life? (Gal 4:12-18)

APPLY:

8. In what ways can you use the thing you're zealous for to further the kingdom of God?
9. What is one thing God is asking you to do in response to this passage? (One measurable goal)
10. What purpose do you live for each day? Could you really say you are living to know and become like Christ?

PRAY AS A GROUP