

## Gal. 4:8-18

- I. Don't give in to the false teachers and go back to the slavery of legalism (8-12)
- A. I'm concerned for you because you are in danger of turning back to slavery (8-11)
1. Even though you should know better, you are going back to slavery (8-10)
    - You have changed, how can you go back?!?
    - a Pos: You have experienced slavery (8)
      - 1) Reason: Then, not knowing God (8a)
      - 2) You were slaves to those who were by nature not gods (8b)
    - b Neg: You are turning away from God back to slavery! (9-10)
      - 1) How can you turn back to nothingness after you have come to God? (9)
        - a) But now, even though being known by God (9a-b)
          - (1) Now, knowing God (9a)
          - (2) Better said, being known by God (9b)
        - b) How are you turning back again to the weak and poor elementary principles to which you wish to be enslaved all over again? (9c)
          - Why go back to weak and miserable from strong and life-giving?!?
      - 2) That is – you are scrupulously keeping days and months and times and years (10)
        - You are worried about rituals
2. Therefore: I'm concerned that you are turning back (11)
  - a I am afraid for you (11a)
  - b That somehow I have toiled among you in vain (11b)
    - I don't want to see my efforts wasted
- B. Therefore: Come over to my way of thinking (12)
  - Follow through with your former friendship and zeal
1. Follow my example (12a-d)
    - As you used to do
    - a You should become like me (12a-b)
      - 1) You should be (12a)
      - 2) Like I am (12b)
    - b Reason: Because I became like you (12c-d)
      - 1) I also became (12c)
      - 2) Like you were, brothers (12d)
        - i.e. Paul took on Gentile lifestyle to win Gentiles, why are they needing to take on a Jewish lifestyle?
  2. Don't treat me unjustly (12e-f)
    - a I am begging you (12e)
    - b Let no one treat me unjustly (12f)

## II. Reason: The false teachers are influencing you in the wrong direction (13-18)

### A. Your attitude toward me is not the same as it was at first (13-16)

You used to receive me and believe my Gospel

1. At first, you zealously welcomed me (13-14)
  - a You know: (13a)
  - b Content of what you know: (13b-14)
    - 1) I first preached the Gospel to you because of a weakness of the flesh (13b)  
Some conjecture eye problems b/c of v. 15  
Could have been the effects of his beatings and stonings cf. Acts 13-14
    - 2) You did not reject me, but zealously welcomed me (14)
      - a) You did not reject me (14a-b)
        - (1) You did not reject your trial by my flesh (14a)
        - (2) Neither did you disdain [it] (14b)
      - b) But rather you received me as from God (14c-e)
        - (1) You received me as an angel of God (14c-d)
          - (a) As [you would receive] a messenger/angel of God (14c)
          - (b) You received me (14d)
        - (2) [You received me] as Christ Jesus (14e)
  2. You have dramatically changed your attitude toward me (15-16)
    - a What happened to your overwhelmingly receptive attitude toward me? (15)  
I once was so very special to you, am I now your enemy by telling you the truth?
      - 1) Where then is your blessing? (15a)  
“i.e. the frame of mind in which you blessed yourselves” BDAG
      - 2) Explanation: I testify that you would have given me your eyes (15b-e)
        - a) I testify to you: (15b)
        - b) What I testify: (15c-e)
          - (1) If it were possible (15c)
          - (2) You would give me your own eyes (15d-e)
            - (a) Tearing out your eyes (15d)
            - (b) You would give [them] to me (15e)
      - b Result: Did I become your enemy by speaking the truth to you? (16)
        - 1) Did I become your enemy? (16a)
        - 2) By speaking the truth to you? (16b)

**B. Good zeal is not the same as self-serving zeal (17-18)**

1. Neg: They are paying attention to you only to use you and take from you (17)
  - a Pos: They are not being zealous for you in a good way (17a)

They are zealous – but for no good, not in a good way
  - b Neg: But they are separating you out to be their followers (17b-c)

But to separate you, excluding you for themselves, so that you are zealous for them  
They are zealous against Paul  
Don't follow the wrong kind of jealousy – human leader against another  
Luther said, "Don't read my books, I hope they disappear. Read the Bible instead."

    - 1) They want to separate you [for themselves, from us] (17b)
    - 2) Purpose: so that you would be zealous for them (17c)
2. Pos: To always be zealous for good, not only in my presence is good (18)

Be zealous, but for the right things – Gospel things

  - a To always be zealous for the good is good (18a)
  - b And not only when I am present with you (18b)

Implied – also when I am absent, and false teachers come among you  
Remain faithful to me and the true Gospel, even when I am not present