

GALATIANS 4:8-14

“Back to slavery again?!”



949-231-8323

BIBLE STUDY

Text in Questions

REVIEW & OVERVIEW OF PARAGRAPH

BEFORE CHRIST

- Child
- Slave
- Bondage
- Under elemental things



AFTER CHRIST

- Adoption
- Spirit of His son
- Heir

OVERVIEW OF 4:8-12-14

Part 1 : V8-11

Knowing God now, back to slavery again?!

Part 2 : V11ff

Personal Plea. "I beg you!"

**PART 1.
Back to Slavery
Again?!**

8 However at that time,
when you did not know God,
you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

9 But now that you have come to know God,
or rather to be known by God,

how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental
things,

to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

v8 **However at that time,**
when you did not know God,
you were slaves
to those which by nature are no gods.

Verse 8

What aspect of our pre-
conversion state is Paul
focusing on?

v8 **However at that time,**
when you did not know God,
you were slaves
to those which by nature are no gods.

**Is there anything you say
or do, that looks like
someone who doesn't
know God?**

⁹ **But now** that you have come to know God,
or rather to be known by God,
how is it that you turn back again
to the weak and worthless elemental things,
to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

¹⁰ **You observe days and months and seasons and years.**

**What's the difference
between you knowing
God, vs you being
known by God?**

God knows us, so we know Him.

- 1. 1 John 4:19 we love, because He first loved us.**
- 2. John 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you”**
- 3. John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.**

Why do Christians turn
back to the weak and
former way of life?

- ⁹ **But now** that you have come to know God,
or rather to be known by God,
how is it that you turn back again
to the weak and worthless elemental things,
to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
- ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years.

⁹ But now that y

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how is it tha

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10

Worthless

πτωχός *ptōchós*,

to crouch, cower like a beggar.
Poor and helpless. As a subst.,
someone in abject poverty, utter
helplessness, complete
destitution.

ver again?

seasons and years.

Summary

Don't go back to the slavery of the flesh.

- ⁹ **But now** that you have come to know God,
or rather to be known by God,
**how is it that you turn back again
to the weak and worthless elemental things,
to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?**
- ¹⁰ **You observe days and months and seasons and years.**

PART 2 Personal Plea

¹¹ I fear for you,
that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

¹² I beg of you, brethren,
become as I *am*,
for I also *have become as you are*.

You have done me no wrong; ¹³ but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; ¹⁴ and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus *Himself*.

Paul getting very personal (11-20)

1. V11-12a My fear and my plea
2. V12-14 You were so good to me, I to you.
3. V15-18 But where is that now? Do you see me as an enemy?
4. V19-20 I wish I could be with you my children for I'm worried.

¹¹ I fear for you,
that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

¹² I beg of you, brethren,
become as I *am*,
for I also *have become as you are*.

V11 Fear & Frustration
Does Paul think they
are not Christian?

¹¹ I fear for you,
that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

¹² I beg of you, brethren,
become as I *am*,
for I also *have become as you are*.

What is meant by this command? “Become as I am?” How did Paul become like them?

“Be Like ME!”

Philippians 3:2–11 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; ...If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. *(Be like me!)*

“Be Like ME!”

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Be like me! & you're the same)

12b

You have done me no wrong;

**13 but you know that it was because of a bodily illness
that I preached the gospel to you the first time;**

**14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition
you did not despise or loathe,
but you received me as an angel of God,
as Christ Jesus *Himself*.**

**What's the flow of
thought?**

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What's the flow of
thought?

Next Time

So, am I an enemy now? What's changed?

12b

You have done me no wrong;

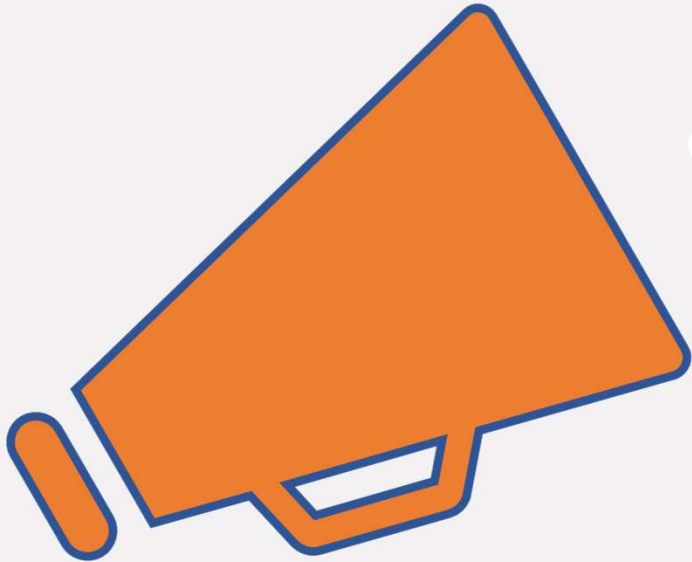
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**What can we observe
about their
relationship?**

Next Time

So, am I an enemy now? What's changed?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Ministry
Fellowship**

**Saturday, 2/17
9AM**

**\$10 / person
Coffee, light
refreshments &
lunch provided**



**Cleaning &
Maintenance Day**

**Saturday, 3/9
9AM**

**Refreshments &
coffee provided**



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1. **Fri 2/23 - Sun 2/25 BAM Retreat**
2. **Fri 3/1 All Church Praise and Prayer**
3. **Sun 3/3 to Sun 4/14 OT Survey**
4. **Mon 3/25-Sun 3/31 Passion Week and Easter Events**

Discussion Questions

1. What is most common forms of “weak & worthless” today?
2. Why do Christians turn back to former ways of life?
3. Is there anything that we say or do that sounds like someone who doesn't know God?
4. As you do accountability & ministry to people – have you had times when you tried to convince a wayward friend and it not go well? How do you not take it personally when it doesn't succeed? Or should you?