

Live Free Changing Lives

Galatians 4:8-20 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 seasons 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 welcomed 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. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, 20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

First Encouragement : **Live free.**

v. 8-9 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 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?

Three pathways in life. Two lead to bondage and one leads to freedom.

Secular approach. **Good things or bad things** become **god things**.

Religious approach. **Good people** become **god things**.

Gospel approach. **Christ** becomes **all I need**.

Second Encouragement : **Free others.**

How can I lead others to live free?

v. 12 I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you.

Identify

"I became like you"

Exemplify

"become like me"

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

v. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

Intensify

"for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth"

Magnify

"until Christ is formed in you"

v. 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.

Self-focused ministers want **something from you.**

Christ-focused ministers want **something for you.**

Additional Study : Paul's passion for spiritual formation

Monday Romans 12:1-8

Tuesday I Corinthians 4

Wednesday Ephesians 5:1-17

Thursday Philippians 2:1-11

Friday Colossians 3:1-17