



Is Christ Being Formed in You?

Galatians 4:8-20

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. ⁹ But 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? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain. ¹² Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and 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. ¹⁵ What 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. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.



Galatians 4:8

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



Paul is the agent God used to bring the gospel to Galatia.

The Galatians were pagans in bondage to the gods (demons) of this world.



Galatians 4:9

- But now that you have come to know God,

Paul believes they were converted.

- or rather to be known by God,

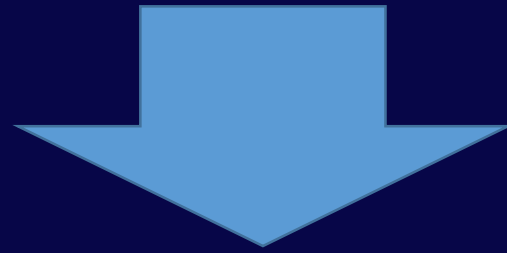
Notice where Paul puts his emphasis.



Or **“rather to be known by God”** puts the focus on God and His work in saving us.

While one may think they found Jesus the reality is Jesus found them.

Galatians 4:9



- **how can you turn back** again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?



There are some who treat this passage as only a discipleship issue. That is to say that there is nothing in doubt concerning the salvation of the Galatians.

This could not be any further from the truth look back at Gal 1:6.



Galatians 1:6

- I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—



Paul is perplexed;
he has doubts

v. 20



Galatians 4:20

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

KJV

- **for I stand in doubt of you.**



Galatians 4:10

- You observe days and months and seasons and years!

Someone is influencing these converts to Christ to return to keeping the ceremonial law as a component of righteousness.

Today



- **You are fascinated with horoscopes.**
- **You talk about karma.**
- **You seemed to be bored with the gospel.**
- **Living life for that which is all carnal/futile.**



Look forward to

Galatians 5:2



Galatians 5:2

- Look: I, Paul, say to you that **if you accept circumcision**, Christ will be of no advantage to you.



Look @ Paul's Shocking Statement

v. 11



Galatians 4:11

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

marked by futility or ineffectualness

Merriam-Webster



**What would make
Paul's work with the
people of Galatia in
vain? Why is Paul
saying this?**



Galatians 4:12

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



When Paul was with the Galatians he did not live under the Mosaic law.

“Become as I am” is Paul’s plea that the Galatians live in the freedom Christ secured for us.



Galatians 4:13

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

Now Paul gets very personal. Bringing to remembrance the situation God used to bring the gospel to Galatia.



Galatians 4:14

- and 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.



Galatians 4:15

- What 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.

Blessedness



- **Blessed to know your sins are forgiven**
- **Blessed to be part of the family of God**
- **Blessed to know Christ suffered in your place**
- **Blessed to be given eternal life**
- **Blessed to have the Holy Spirit living in you**
- **Blessed to be under no condemnation**
- **Blessed to have peace with God**



Galatians 4:16

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



“the Truth”

Isn't that the
issue?

The Truth



- Is there truth?
- What is truth?
- Is it absolute?
- What is “the truth” that Paul is talking about?



1. There is only one true and living God.

2. His Son is Jesus Christ.

3. His Person is Triune—Father, Son and Spirit.

There are NO other gods.



4. Sin is a transgression of God's law.

5. Sin separates man from God.

6. God sent his Son Jesus to reconcile sinners.

He preached the Gospel



1. Death

- FOR OUR* SINS
- ON A CROSS

2. Burial

- IN JERUSALEM

3. Resurrection

- ON THE THIRD DAY

**The
Gospel
of the
Lord
Jesus
Christ**

***Our refers to those who have placed authentic faith in this gospel for their salvation from their sins.**

The Eternal Gospel



The gospel is the good news that God is reconciling sinners to Himself eternally through the sacrificial and substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of the man Christ Jesus through authentic faith in what Jesus, the one and only Son of God, accomplished on a tree 2000 years ago on a skull-shaped hill in the city of Jerusalem.



BTW

What is the primary passage that guides this definition of the gospel?

Paul taught:



Christ's sacrifice was sufficient. Jesus said, "It is finished."

We don't add to or take anything away from Christ's atoning work on the cross. We are no longer under the law.



Galatians 4:17

- They [Judaizers] make much of you, but for no good purpose.
- They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.

Exclusivity



Let's Talk Exclusivity

Christ Alone

But this is the “Us Four and No More!” mentality or even syndrome.



We are the who are:

- 1. Circumcised ‘believers in Christ’**
- 2. Keep the Sabbath**
- 3. Honor the festivals.**
- 4. Make the pilgrimages.**
- 5. Etc.**

This “Us Four and No More!”



mentality is prevalent in major cults and small independent churches.

These churches claim to have a lock on doctrine, practice or even holiness.



More Clarification

v. 18



Galatians 4:18

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

Clearly Paul is saying this is NOT a good purpose.



The Judaizers are making much of Galatian believers to get them to join their group.

But their group is making much of the Mosaic law and not Christ which is not a good purpose.



Galatians 4:19

• my little [dear] children,

Read Paul's love. These are words of endearment. Paul is their spiritual father and he is concerned.



Galatians 4:19

- for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth

Contemplate the significance of this metaphor. Paul the man is talking about travailing in childbirth again.



What could be so
significant as to cause
this level of anguish?

v. 20



Galatians 4:20

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

KJ/NKJV

for I stand in doubt of you.

What is Paul perplexed about?



What does Paul stand in doubt about?

Only one answer is sufficient to warrant traveling in birth pains again.

Paul doesn't know if the Galatians are genuinely converted.



Turn Back to

Matthew 13:18-23

Matthew 13:18–23

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”



**Paul has NO
assurance of
legitimate conversion
without evidence of
progressive
sanctification.**



Galatians 4:19

- for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth **until Christ is formed in you!**



Turn to

Romans 8:29



Romans 8:29

- For those whom he foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

When **“Christ is formed in you”** there is an unwavering, relentless devotion to the sufficiency of Christ’s atoning work on the cross to the exclusion of everything else.



You don’t add anything to your faith in Christ for your redemption.

You don't go back to circumcision.



**You don't go back to the Sabbath,
Passover, Pentecost, etc.**

**You don't add speaking in tongues, water
baptism or the sacraments.**

**Or any other work that detracts from
Christ-exalting gospel dependence.**

When **“Christ is formed in you”**



He is your Lord.

This is evidenced by a devotion to following Christ.

He is your example and you strive to be like Him in as much as possible.

When Christ is your Lord you



- **Love God and love others**
- **Keep His Commandments**
- **Follow Him in believer's baptism**
- **Believe He alone is the way, the truth and the life**
- **Seek to be patient with sinners**
- **Focus on seeing others come to Christ**
- **Prioritize your relationship with His Church**
- **Strive to advance His kingdom on this earth**
- **Genuinely care about others physically & spiritually**
- **Speak the truth in love**



When **“Christ is formed in you”**

**You are led by the Spirit of Christ
dwelling in your heart.**

**The Spirit of God guides your life
and you strive to hear that still
small voice directing you.**



Galatians 5:22-23

- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

When **“Christ is formed in you”** your desire is to do the will of the Father.



Your prayer is **not my will, but yours, be done.**

You pray that His kingdom comes and His will is done on this earth.



2 Corinthians 13:5

- Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you?**— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!