

No Other Gospel: Galatians 4:8-31

Kyle Collins

September 22, 2024

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Paul's appeal is deeply personal and emotional

He no longer appeals to their intellect in his impassioned plea.

*Why do you think Paul had such pastoral concern for the Galatians?

*Which type of appeal tends to speak to you more, an emotional one or an intellectual one?

He warns them not to become enslaved all over again

Read and discuss Galatians 4:8-11 (NIV)

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 seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

*What is Paul noticing about the people?

*What does it mean to be “known by God”? How have you felt known by God lately?

*Contrast our knowing OF God and our being known BY God.

*How can grasping this unshakable relationship help prevent you from working to bolster your standing with God?

Zeal itself is not a virtue, rather what the zeal is in service of

Read and discuss Galatians 4:17-20 (NIV)

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!

*How would you define zeal?

*Do you have an example of zeal being used self-servingly?

*How can you tell if zealousness is leading you into deeper freedom in Christ?

²⁸ Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Paul reminds the people they may be like Abraham and Sarah in their struggle to trust.

*How can you relate to Abraham and Sarah in the way they took the path to do it themselves? When have you felt better to just DO something rather than trusting God?

*What would it look like for you to let Him lead?

*How is the Spirit prompting you to take a step towards faith and trust. How are you sensing God calling you to be a ‘child of promise’?