



FUNDAMENTAL GRACE BIBLE STUDY

Galatians

20 August 2017

Lesson 18: Chapter 4:12-20

Paul's Doubt of the Galatians

1. Overview (4:7-20)

- a. By desiring law bondage, Paul doubts the Galatians ever trusted the gospel of Christ
- b. Paul deals w/ the legalist mentality severely because the potential is missing grace

1. 4:11 – Review: The New Creature's Pattern

- a. *"I am afraid of you"* Israel's holyday program is not for the body of Christ – Col2:16; 2Cor5:17
- b. Paul warns against law teaching as doctrines of devils today – 1Tim4:1-4; 1Cor8:8
- c. In this dispensation, meats, drinks, days do not affect standing – Rom14:5,17; 1Cor8:8

2. 4:11-12 – Fathers Don't Desire Vain Labor

- a. Paul was the Galatians' father in the faith by preaching the gospel to them – 1Cor4:14-16; 9:17
- b. *Lest* def. – that not; for fear that | *Bestow* def. – to give freely, without claim or merit; to confer
- c. *Vain* def. – wanting; empty; worthless; fruitless; ineffectual; proud of petty/showy things
- d. Paul mentions vanity 5x in Galatians – 2:2,21; 3:4; 4:11; 5:26
- e. Note his decline in addressing: *"ye are sons"* to *"my little children"*
- f. Compare this with the Thessalonians report card – 1Thess1; 2:1,6-13
- g. *Beseech* def. – to entreat (honest petition or request); to ask or pray with urgency
- h. *"I am as ye are"* they are fellow-members of the Body of Christ – Gal3:28
- i. *"ye have not injured me"* personal issues take a back seat to doctrinal truth – Eph6:12; 2Cor10:3

3. 4:13-15 – Paul's Infirmary of the Flesh

- a. *Infirmary* def. – weakness physically, mentally or in doctrinal understanding (Rom15:1,2)
- b. What was the infirmity? A: Likely eyesight – Gal4:15; Cf. 2Cor12:7
 - i. *Thorn* def. – sharp woody shoot from the stem of a tree or shrub (Gen3:18; Cf. Mt27:29)
 - ii. *Thorn* def. – also an infirmity of the flesh (2Cor12:7); opposition (Nu33:55; Josh23:13); cares of the world (Mt13:22); unfruitfulness (Lu6:44; Heb6:8), vanity & sinners
- c. Is the *"thorn in the flesh"* the same as the *"temptation...in my flesh"*?
- d. Clearly, Paul's thorn was a weakness & hindrance in which Christ stated his grace was sufficient for and strength able to be made perfect – 2Cor12:7-10; 9:8
- e. *"through infirmity...I preached the gospel"* pressing toward the mark despite state – Phil4:11-13

4. 4:15-20 – Dissimulated Love & Ignorant Zeal Are Corrected by the Mystery of Christ Revealed

- a. The rev. of the mystery provides more excellent understanding – Rom16:25; 1Cor12:31; 14:12
- b. *"Where is...the blessedness ye spake of?"* their consideration of/for him had changed – Rom12:9
- c. Beware of those that are fickle...sobriety, temperance & faithfulness require time – 1Cor4:1,2
- d. *"Am I...your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"* godly love is rooted in truth – Phil1:10
- e. *Zeal* def. – passionate affection/desire in the pursuit of any thing: good or bad
- f. *"They zealously affect you...not well"* zeal must be properly directed by truth – Rom10:2
- g. But the more Paul loved this way, the less he was loved – 2Cor12:14,15
- h. Paul's zeal for God was redirected when Christ revealed the mystery to him – Gal1:14; Phil3:4-8
- i. *"it is good to be zealously affected...in a good thing"* be zealous for God's will – Ti2:11-14
- j. Paul's pattern is that which we should cleave to – 1Tim6:3-12; Rom14:19; 16:17-19; Eph4:29
- k. But the pattern of godliness in this dispensation might be a lonely one – 2Tim1:8-15; 4:1-10