

# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Chapter 4:8-20

True or False?

# Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> You observe days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I am afraid I may have laboured over you in vain.

# Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>12</sup> Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. <sup>13</sup> You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> What then has become of the blessing you felt? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth

# Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>17</sup> They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. <sup>18</sup> It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, <sup>19</sup> my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! <sup>20</sup> I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

# Not everyone wants to be free!!!

According to the National Institute of Justice, about **68 percent** of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within three years of their release from prison, and **77 percent** were arrested within five years.

The longer they are in, the more likely to re-offend to get back in



# Not everyone wants to be free!!!

After Moses got the Children of Israel out of Egypt, out in the great unknown, they got fearful and wanted to go back. They wanted leeks and onions and flesh pots..... And slavery and beatings!!

Better the devil you know than the devil you don't!

# True God or false gods?

So Paul asks the Galatian Church why they want to hold onto their old life while participating in the new?

We do this!

Traditions and culture have a strong hold on us, and we pretend we have control and we pretend that its not important

# True God or false gods?

People stick to what they know out of fear

What will happen if I say “no” to Tete?

What if I refuse to pay lobola?

What if I don't go beat the grave?

What will happen if I vote for Chamisa?

What will happen if I don't vote for ZanuPF?

Traditions and culture have a strong hold on us, and we pretend  
we have control and we pretend that its not important



# True God or false gods?

People stick to what they know out of fear

The devil will always rule us by fear

So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is...fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. (FDR 1932)

# True God or false gods?

Fear is the opposite of Faith and is a god!

Paul asks –

- Has nothing that we have said
- Or anything we have done
- Made any difference in your lives at all?

# True God or false gods?

Paul says we have a simple choice

- Continue in fear - idolatry
- Strive in faith to enter the new life - freedom

# True God or false gods?

Paul continues the rest of the passage telling them how wonderful they are

He was ill and would have done anything to help him recover, even give him their own eyes

He almost implies that they were man pleasers because no sooner had he left than they slipped back into their old ways

All he want is for Christ to be fully formed in them

# Take home message

- Ask God if there's anything in our old life, family or tradition that we know is not scriptural, that we hold on to
- Take a leap of FAITH not FEAR and do what you know to be right
- Ask God is anything is preventing Christ being fully formed in us
- Decide to change – repentance