

LEARN

Read Galatians 4:8-20 together. What stands out in this passage and what was helpful or challenging in the sermon on Sunday?

Why is Paul afraid he may have labored over the Galatians in vain? What are they doing (or not doing) that causes him to feel this way?

(They are acting enslaved to what is not truth from God and is a form of slavery again. They are willingly believing religious observance of days/traditions is what they need in order to be right with God.)

What is “the truth” Paul is referring to in verse 16? Why does it seem to Paul that he is becoming their enemy for giving them the truth?

(In general, the truth of the gospel. The truth Paul has been giving in the whole letter. The truth of freedom in Christ from all forms of slavery, whether to sins or religion or demons.)

PRACTICE

What are the types of attitudes, actions or beliefs that show someone is returning to “worthless” things instead of enjoying freedom in Christ?

(Examples: Striving to earn God’s love or acceptance, believing observances or traditions inherently bring you close to God, believing works are any part of the foundation of the gospel.)

Doing right things and performing religious deeds can be a tool of Satan to keep people away from Christ. How can you be careful not to equate right actions as the foundation of your righteousness before God? (Rehearse the gospel to yourself regularly, pray prayers of thanksgiving for God’s free grace and love through Christ, remember your obedience comes from faith, not as the foundation of relationship to God.)

How can a Christian be confident Christ is being formed in them? How does Galatians 1 – 4 help you answer that question?

(Leader: Take some time with your group to scan chapters 1 – 4 and ask people to call out anything they see that helps create a picture of what it means to have Christ formed in them.)

CHANGE

One way to understand growing in Christian maturity is “Christ formed in you” (v. 20). What is an area of your life that needs to be formed by Christ more than it is now? How will that happen?

(There are many areas to consider. If the “how” question is difficult for someone, one operative word in every situation is the need to “surrender”... our will, desires, plans, finances, decisions... to the Lord’s will continually)