

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians



Sunday, December 10, 2017 Pastor Tom Gang

The Galatians had fallen under the spell of legalism instilled by _____ men seeking their own preeminence instead of God's glory. After making a doctrinal defense for repentance in chapter 3 and a dispensational case at the start of chapter 4, the apostle Paul now returns to a more personal appeal as he did in chapters 1-2. Here, he is primarily dealing with backslidden believers who were once his dearest friends, but now consider him their _____. At the first they not only embraced the true gospel and loved Christ, they also loved Paul for bringing them such good news! This letter is not simply a reproof or rebuke of false doctrines, but a heartfelt plea from a missionary with a broken heart. Today's passage, though doctrinal in nature, is an example of a true _____ who sincerely seeks the _____ of wayward Christians.

FRIEND NOT FOE – GALATIANS 4:8-18

1. A real friend speaks the _____ to the backslidden – Galatians 4:8-11
 - a. He reminds them of their _____ – verses 8, 9b-10
 - Before you were saved you served _____ gods
 - Before you were saved you were in _____ to weak and beggarly elements
 - b. He describes the _____ that took place – verses 9a
 - You know God
 - God knows you
 - c. His point and purpose – verses 9c, 11
 - Why do you desire to go back under bondage?
Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years – Col. 2:20-23; Ro. 14:1-6
 - I do not want my work to be for nothing
2. A real friend seeks the _____ of the fallen – Galatians 4:12-18
 - a. He reminds them of their previous _____ – verses 12-15
 - Brethren, I beseech (beg, implore) you, be like me; I am like you...
 - You did _____ reject me even when I was weak and sickly

- You received me as if I was an angel of God, even as if I were Christ Jesus himself
- You made it known that I was a _____ to you
- It is a well-known fact you would have done anything for me to remove my infirmity

b. He is their friend not foe – verse 16; Proverbs 27:5-6, 9, 17

- They are treating him as if he is their _____
- He was _____ to take a risk by telling them the truth

c. He describes the _____ of the false teachers they are now following – verses 17-18

- The false teachers were zealots bringing the Galatians back under the law
- These corrupt men were stirring up the believers with things that were _____ good
- They were doing this for their own benefit, _____ to help the Galatians

It is a good thing to be excited about truth

It is a good thing to be affected by anyone who is speaking the truth

It is a good thing for this to happen from others besides me...

But not from these accursed men; don't follow them!

3. The practical conclusions

- A backslidden state removes you from fellowship with Christ and true believers. This break in relations is of your own accord, not theirs.
- False teachers seek disciples and glory for themselves, _____ God.