

Galatians

Week 8 Homework

Reading

Read through all of Galatians once during the week, if possible. Make a list of questions you have as you read.

Read Galatians 4:8-20 each day this week, writing down your observations. Look for repeated words, attributes of God, transition words, and note any confusing or unknown words.

Questions

1. Paul asks 3 questions in verses 8-20, and first one is found in verse 9. How would you respond to the fact that you not only can know God, but that He also knows you (verse 9)?
2. How is the Christian life one of sons and daughters, and not one of slavery? How are we free?
3. Verse 10 speaks of observing things from their former way of life. Read Colossians 2:16-17. What do you think Paul's comment in verse 11 means regarding these things?

(Note: In the Old Testament, God ordained specific days for religious feasts/festivals for His people. You can read more about them in Leviticus 23.)

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- Perhaps the most important word in verse 13 is 'become.' This indicates a state of being that is arrived upon, one that was not there originally. Think back to who Paul was, and how he acted prior to becoming a Christian. What is Paul trying to communicate here?

Verse 13-15 speak of some physical ailment of Paul's. This has been widely speculated and scholars disagree on what it was for certain. Whatever it was, it was serious and required care, ("my condition was a trial to you") but wasn't so serious that he couldn't preach the gospel to them.

- Paul's second question to them in this passage is in verse 15. The Greek word for *blessedness* can be translated as *happiness* or *satisfaction*.
 - Read Acts 13:48 - how did they respond to Paul's preaching the gospel originally?

B) For Paul's comment to make sense, his hearers must have displayed some unhappiness or dissatisfaction. Where is this coming from? What might be causing it?

- Verse 16 is Paul's third question to them in this passage. It is particularly strong given how verse 15 ends. Paul's message (the gospel) never changed; but their reaction to it changed. Why might a person's attitude and response change toward what they know is truth?

- Who are 'they' in verse 17? (See Gal. 1:7, 2:4, 2:12)

- Read through the end of our passage of study (Gal. 4:8-20).
 - What is Paul's feeling toward those to whom he is speaking?

B) What is his ultimate hope and goal for them?