

**“Series “No Other Gospel”  
“Being A Christian Friend”  
Galatians 4:12-20  
Part-9**

Often when people think of “Doctrine,” they think of it as cold facts, or some high-minded ideals that are for a select few.

**Galatians 4:12 – “I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong;”**

**Galatians 4:19 – “My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—”**

**We have seen Paul as the Apostle, the theologian and the defender of the faith. Now Paul as the Man, Now Pastor, and Christian Friend.**

**Galatians 1-2 – Gospel of Grace Defended (Personal)  
Galatians 3-4 – Gospel of Grace Explained (Doctrinal)**

**Galatians 4:1-11 – Paul spoke of **Sonship Versus Slavery**. What good is it to be a child of God but to live like a slave?**

**The Thought Of The Passage:** “Discipleship Is Making Others Like Us, While The Means To That End Is To Make Ourselves Like Them.”

- 1. Verses 12-15 – Warmth Of The Past**
- 2. Verses 16-18 – Coldness Of The Present**
- 3. Verses 19-20 – Hope Of The Future**

**1. Verses 12-15 – Warmth Of The Past:**

Galatians 4:12 – “I beg of you, brethren,” – Paul now appeals to them. Notice that he calls them “brethren” even though they were in the great error of sin.

“become as I am,” – The context is that Paul had stated that the Galatians had turned back to the old bondage that Jesus had set them free from.

Galatians 4:9-11

So what does “become as I am” really mean? It is to be free from the evil influence of false teachers, to be free in Christ and know that we are pleasing and accepted by God through faith alone.

Paul said the same thing in defense to King Agrippa – Acts 26:28-29.

“for I also have become as you are.” – This is a reference to when Paul came to them, he was not above them but came as a Gentile, though he was a Jew.

1 Corinthians 9: 20-22

**In seeking to win people to Jesus Christ, the end is to make them like us! While the means to that end is to make ourselves like them.**

John R.W. Stott said, “If they are to become one with us in Christian conviction and experience, we must first become one with them in Christian compassion. We must be able to say with the Apostle Paul: “I became like you; now you become like me.”

“You have done me no wrong;” – As Paul looks back over his relationship with them he saw that they were great examples.

Galatians 4:13 – “it was because of a bodily illness” – What was it? Luke records nothing about it in Acts. Some suggest that Paul on his journey came down with some chronic condition that detained him. It could possibly be the same as his thorn in the flesh, 2 Corinthians 12:7.

There is the suggestion that Paul caught Malaria in the mosquito-infested swamps off the coast of Pamphylia. By the time he got to the plateau, his fever had taken its toll. It came to disfigure him. It appears that it affected his eyesight, Galatians 4:15.

“bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;” – God’s plan is hard to figure out sometimes.

“the first time;” – Acts 13-14 – Paul and Barnabas went there two times. Paul risked his life to get the Word out but the false teachers came after the work was done and wanted to convert to their false view.

Galatians 4:14 – “and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise” – When Paul was sick and hurting they did not turn away from him.

“despise” – physical appearance

2 Corinthians 10:10; 2 Corinthians 11:24-25

“or loathe,” – Reject; literally “to spit out, to spurn;” Some physical problem.

“but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.” – Paul was received as an angel or a messenger of God. That he was received as the Lord himself.

Galatians 4:15 – “Where then is that sense of blessing you had?” – That was then but now what has happened to that love and respect that you showed me in the past?

Galatians 6:11

## **2. Verses 16-18 – Coldness Of The Present:**

Galatians 4:16

“So have I become your enemy” – Paul went from being an ambassador of heaven to being an enemy from Hell!”

“by telling you the truth?” – Paul became the enemy when he spoke up and told the truth to them.

Proverbs 19:3

Paul always told the truth – Ephesians 4:15

“Truth without love is brutality – Love without truth is hypocrisy!”

False teachers always told lies – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

Galatians 4:17

“They eagerly seek you,” – It could be said, “They make much of you.” The idea is that they flattered them and said flowery things about them. This is referring to the false teachers. They wanted these baby Christians.

Proverbs 28:23

Proverbs 29:5

“not commendably,” – They were not seeking them out for godly motives but for selfish reasons; money was behind it.

“but they wish to shut you out,” – “Put a fence around you.”

“so that you will seek them.” – When we are in the freedom of Jesus Christ, we long to be more like him but when we are out we want to be like man.

Galatians 4:18

“But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner,” – It is a good thing to have people respect and look up to you. Paul was not jealous.

### **3. Verses 19-20 – Hope Of The Future:**

Galatians 4:19 – “My children,” – or “little children” – “with whom I am again in labor”

“until Christ is formed in you—” – It is not enough that Christ is in them, he wants to see Christ form in them.

Galatians 4:20 – “for I am perplexed about you.” – Or literally “at my wits’ end.”

### **Application:**

#### **What The Congregation Should Know:**

1. We Should Never Base Our Acceptance Of A Pastor Upon Personal Appearance: Paul Was Sick, He Was Weak But The Galatians Still Received Him.
2. Our Judgment Of The Message Must Not Come From Our Own Subjective Doctrinal Fancies.

#### **What Pastors Should Know:**

3. A Pastor’s Focus Should Be The Spiritual Growth In Others. That Christ Is Being Formed In Them.
4. Pastors Must Be Willing To Endure Pain So That Christ Will Be Formed In Others.