

Message Notes

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Date: November 5, 2017

Bible Focus: Galatians 4:8-20

Current Series: Free (A Study in Galatians)

Message Title: At Wits' End

Gal. 4:19-20 - My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

Point out...

1. What they _____ lose → _____

Gal. 4:8-12a - Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. ¹² I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you.

2. What they _____ lose → _____

Gal 4:12b-18 - You have done me no wrong. ¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴ Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.

3. What they _____ lost → _____

Gal 4:15a - What has happened to all your joy?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Galatians 4:8-20

1. Think of a time in your life when you found yourself "at wits' end" with someone. How did you handle this circumstance?
2. Put yourself in Paul's shoes. From today's study, or our previous studies in Galatians, what's perplexed Paul? To what degree would these same matters perplex you?
3. In what ways do Christ-followers drag old religious rules and regulations into their new life with Christ?
4. Why was Paul so amped up about freedom in Christ?
5. How have you seen relationships ripped apart by differing beliefs or ulterior motives? In what ways can you see yourself taking Paul's personal approach for heading off a relational train wreck?
6. In what ways have you seen joy disappear when rules rise to the forefront of a person's life? Has religion ever robbed you of true joy?
7. Relational restoration with God and others is certainly on Paul's mind in this passage. How can what we've focused on today help you with any relational challenges you are facing?