

Galatians

Chapter 4:12-20

I. **Galatians 4:12-15** ¹²Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all. ¹³Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. ¹⁴And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

a. **These verses bounce from now, the beginning of the relationship and even touch on a duration in the future. Read slowly and understand the flashback and how it relates to the time in which Paul was writing the letter.**

b. **Brethren**

I. **The tone is changing and becoming more gentle and meek.**

1. **II Corinthians 10:1** ¹Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence *am* base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

2. **II Timothy 2:24** ²⁴And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

c. The Now

I. **Be as I am. Paul was saved out of Judaism. The Galatians were saved out of Paganism. They were saved by grace through faith. Paul is the pattern. He's the apostle to the Gentiles. Some have suggested Paul was saying I have become a Gentile**

like you and you became like Paul, being free from law.

- 1. I Timothy 1:15-16** ¹⁵This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.
- 2. I Corinthians 4:16** ¹⁶Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
- 3. I Corinthians 11:1** ¹Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.
- 4. Philippians 3:17** ¹⁷Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
- 5. Paul already addressed that he was dead to the law.**
 - a. Galatians 2:19** ¹⁹For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.
- 6. The relating to all people was part of Paul's strategy.**
 - a. I Corinthians 9:22** ²²To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.
- 7. There is neither Jew nor greek...Paul could say that I am as you are.**
 - a. Galatians 3:28** ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

d. The First

- I. Paul wasn't figuratively injured at a distance. He was reiterating that there was nothing hampering the relationship.
- II. Through infirmity in the flesh.
 1. In Galatia
 - a. **Acts 13:45** ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.
 - b. **Acts 13:50** ⁵⁰But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.
 - c. **Acts 14:19** ¹⁹And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
 2. Overall summary
 - a. **II Corinthians 11:23-30** ²³Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁴Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. ²⁵Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶*In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils

among false brethren; ²⁷In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? ³⁰If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

III. Preached the gospel.

1. **Don't forget Paul's sharp words regarding the Gospel in chapter 1**

a. **Galatians 1:6-9** ⁶I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

b. **Galatians 1:11-12** ¹¹But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. ¹²For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2. **Despite distractions**

a. **Romans 1:16** ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God

unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

b. Philippians 1:12-13 ¹²But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; ¹³So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

c. Colossians 4:3 ³Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

d. Ephesians 6:19-20 ¹⁹And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

e. The Now

I. **Paul talks of the blessedness that they would have given during his initial visit and is asking where is that sentiment in his present state.**

f. The First

I. **Bear you record- Martyreo** (Greek from G3144 to be a witness, i.e. testify (literally or figuratively):—charge, give (evidence), bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of, testify, give (have) testimony, (be, bear, give, obtain) witness.

1. **Gives the idea to testify or give witness to something.**

2. **The blessedness spoken of**

3. **Paul's eye ailment**

a. **Paul says they would have plucked out their own eyes.**

- i. **Galatians 6:11** ¹¹Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.
- ii. **II Corinthians 12:7-9** ⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- iii. **Romans 16:23** ²³Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

II. **Galatians 4:16-18** ¹⁶Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. ¹⁸*But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.*

a. The Now

I. **Enemy because I tell the truth. Notice the contrast to how they received him versus now.**

1. **Ephesians 4:15** ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

2. **II Corinthians 13:8** ⁸For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

3. **Galatians 2:5** ⁵To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.
4. **Ephesians 5:15-17** ¹⁵See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.
5. **I Timothy 4:11** ¹¹These things command and teach.

II. They = the Judaizers

1. **Zealously affect you**
 - a. **They will turn away from you the minute that you challenge their authority.**
2. **Zealously affected in a good way**
 - a. **I Corinthians 12:31** ³¹But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.
 - b. **Romans 12:11** ¹¹Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
 - i. **Even when Paul isn't present. He doesn't want to just reminisce or have to be present to see them use that zealous affection for good.**

III. **Galatians 4:19-20** ¹⁹My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, ²⁰I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

a. Whom I travail in birth

I. **We've already looked at the difference between children and sonship last week. Children are a great illustration. The idea of travailing in birth was used by Jesus to present truth.**

1. **John 16:21** ²¹A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no

more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

b. Until Christ be formed in you

I. **Another time element. Until.**

1. **Philippians 1:6** ⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

2. **II Corinthians 13:5** ⁵Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

c. Present with you

I. **Philippians 1:23-24** ²³For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

II. **Change my voice. Meaning to change tone. Paul had to change his tone from time to time to get things**

1. **II Corinthians 7:8-10** ⁸For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. ⁹Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.