

Gal.4:8-15

Paul's Question: What Happened?

- in the first 7 verses, Paul uses the illustration of a child coming of age to show the Father's appointed time

- this is the time in which God would fulfill the Law, bestow grace, free from bondage, and give eternal inheritance to His "sons"

vs.8- some of the Galatians were converts of Judaism while others were pagan (polytheists)

(These verses will primarily deal with those who are pagan)

*Paul once again appeals to them to not turn from their privilege as "free sons" to a system of legal bondage

- "knew not" - (oida) to see, to turn the eyes, mind, and attention to anything, to perceive with the senses- ideal wording for those who came to know Christ by the reality of Creation

- "service" - (douleuo) to obey or submit, to yield obedience

- "no gods" - this phrase means that they have no existence in the nature of things- false gods (They only exist in the imaginations of their worshipers) *this is paganism

vs.9- "known" - (ginosko) to become acquainted with, to be joined together

*the Hebrew word in Gen.4:1 has the same general meaning

- "known of God" - God has joined together with and has made you His acquaintance

*Paul uses these phrases together to give a picture of salvation

Truth- many people try to know God but are not known of Him- Matt.7:21-23

*Just as in 1:6, Paul uses present tense to suggest that they were in the act of turning from grace to Law but wasn't fully there yet

- "beggarly" - (ptochos) helpless or powerless to accomplish an end, lacking

- they are turning from something complete to something that is lacking

vs.10- the observing of these meant that they were falling into the requirements of Judaism

(This was done with the belief that it would somehow merit them favor with God)

Truth- these observances were never a requirement for the church

*this shows a partial success of the legalists

vs.11- "I am afraid of you" - means that he fears they had no Christian principle

(This is a deep concern for their spiritual well-being)

*afterall, what kind of person would trade the spiritual freedom in Christ for bondage?

Truth- their actions were saying- "Christ did as much as He could, but now I have to do the rest"

- "in vain" - for no reason or pointless- Paul suffered greatly while in Galatia- Acts:14:19-20

vs.12- "be as I am" - this is Paul letting them know that he used to think that his own

righteousness would save him- Phil.3:4-6

(But when Jesus saved him, he abandoned all of his efforts and trusted wholly in God's grace)

- "injured me" - even though Paul was physically attacked here, his meaning by this is that even if their profession is false, it is of no loss to Paul as God healed him

*they were only hurting themselves

vs.13- "infirmity of the flesh" - many believe that Paul contracted malaria or ophthalmia

(This was a common eye disease known to the lowlands of Pamphylia and Paul was known to have failing eyesight in his later years)

*this could be why He bypassed Pergos initially and then preached there when they circled back

vs.14- "temptation" - (peirasmos) a trial, test, or a proving

*Paul is saying in this verse that they initially received him as a messenger(angel) of God despite his physical ailment (they could have considered him cursed due to his condition)

- "even as Christ Jesus" - Paul's meaning here is that they received him with the highest honor

vs.15- literally he's asking- "What happened to that spirit you once had?"

- the "blessedness" here speaks of content or satisfaction

*at one time they were so content in Jesus that they would have done anything for Paul just because they knew that he was the man God used to bring them the truth