

vs.16- "enemy"-(echthros) one who is hated or despised, opposing (this word has hostile intent)

- "truth"- (aletheuo) unwavering facts supported by visual evidence

(Paul was not their enemy as he was proclaiming the Christ he met on the Damascus Road)

- apparently the Judaizers had convinced some of them to see Paul as an enemy

- they had convinced the Galatians that Paul was keeping in them in a spiritual handicap with his adamant stand against circumcision and Law as a means of salvation

* the truth that Paul preached to them brought them great joy at one time

vs.17- "they"- the Judaizers (Paul categorizes them by using 3rd person)

- "zealously affect"- (zeloo) to be hot or boil (the idea is an intense pursuit of something)

- "not well"- this means not honorably or for the wrong reason

(The Judaizers were zealous for their own cause)

*their motive was to promote the old covenants and to steal hearts from Christ

- "exclude you"- meaning to separate and isolate them from any other teachings

(This is one of Satan's tactics- to "exclude" one from the truth of Scripture)

Truth- Satan is referred to as a roaring lion in I Peter 5:8

(a lion uses the same tactic to kill its prey)

- "affect them"- the same word "zeloo" is used again

- Paul is telling them that the legalists' goal was to get the Galatians to pursue them

(If they were successful in this then the Galatians would have no hope elsewhere and would seek affiliation with them)

vs.18- here, Paul is saying that zeal is not a bad thing- what makes it bad is the motives behind it

*the Galatians got on fire for God while Paul was there but they were still babes in Christ

(That fire seemed to dwindle down once Paul was gone)

Truth- believers will have a burning desire to pursue God and be obedient to His Word

(Remember- it's God that pursues the person at salvation)

vs.19- "my little children"- Paul uses a term of endearment here even though the legalists were trying to estrange the Galatians from Paul and had caused them to basically renounce the Gospel

- "travail in birth"- this is a term of anguish to show his deep concern for their welfare

- "formed in you"- meaning when Christ reigns wholly in their hearts

*when this happens, it will produce outward obedience to the doctrines of Jesus

*Paul's desire is for Christ to be seen in their lives as he knows that a living Christ on the inside will manifest Himself on the outside

vs.20- Paul felt handicapped in having to write to them instead of being there in person

- if he was there in person then things could get straightened out quickly

- "change my voice"- meaning that the letter sounds harsh but Paul is writing it out of love and concern for them (if he were there, they would see that)

- "doubt"- (aporeo) to be perplexed, to be at wit's end

vs.21- on the verge of adopting Law and becoming subject to its demands and condemnation,

Paul asks them if they really know what that means

vs.22- for the remainder of this chapter, Paul uses the illustration of Abraham's 2 sons to contrast grace and Law

- "bondmaid"- this is Hagar which bore Ishmael

- "freewoman"- this is Sarah which bore Isaac

vs.23- "after the flesh"- Ishmael's birth was motivated by Abraham and Sarah's lack of faith in God's promise (a lack of faith is sin- Ishmael was born due to sin)

Why was the Law created?- Sin

- "promise"- Isaac was born out of a promise God made- he is the son that had an inheritance

*God promises grace to all those that have faith and give them an inheritance

*Ishmael was not of nor had anything to do with the promise