

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jesus + _____ = Salvation?

June 2012

Lesson #10 - Galatians – *The Joys of Growing Up*

INTRODUCTION

In what ways do adults have greater privileges than children?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 4:8 – 20

Note: Doctrinal deviation involves more than principles; it involves people. Being gentle and gracious with people does not mean being soft on sin. This passage reminds us of the powerful impact of personal relationships. We have a comparison of three states here: The state of these gentile believers (1) before their conversion, as pagans serving other gods; (2) their state after conversion, trusting in Christ for salvation; and (3) their state if they should choose to follow the teaching of the new teachers (Judaizers) to follow the Law of Moses. Paul probably had malaria and went to Galatia to recuperate. Even gentiles thought that physical ailments were a sign of judgment. Malaria sometime affects the eyes, possibly making Paul more helpless and less attractive. “Know” is used both in its Hebrew sense of interpersonal, intimate, family relationships and its Greek sense of cognitive content but the focus here is on the Greek sense as verse 9 is on the Hebrew sense.”¹

1. Before becoming Christians, to what were the Galatians enslaved? V 8; Rom 1:25
2. How does Paul describe the practice of trying to work/earn you way into heaven? V 9
3. Why did these Christians go back to observing the Mosaic calendar? Vv 9-10
4. In what ways do we sometimes act as spiritual slaves?
5. After experiencing salvation, why do some Christians return to their former bad habits (sin)?
6. What had been Paul’s experience with the Galatian believers? (12-14) 1 Cor 2:3
7. Why did the believers turn away from Paul? V 16
8. What does Paul mean, “until Christ is formed in you?” V 19 Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29
9. How did Paul envision that Israel’s immaturity should end?
10. How has the discipleship group affected your spiritual growth?

APPLICATION

- Paul seems to have been shunned for telling the truth. Maturity is often shown by how people accept criticism and truth. What truth do you need to share in an appropriate way?
- Since legalism simplifies life, declaring categorically what is right and what is wrong, we yearn to return to it. Freedom always has the price tag of responsibility. The freedom which we have in Christ is sometimes surrendered by those who prefer simplicity to complexity, formulas to faith. What faith challenges are you facing today as a “grown up” Christian?

Satan has always specialized in the misuse of a good thing. Perhaps the Lord has convicted you of a certain thing in your own life. We’ll say for the sake of argument that it’s tithing (giving 10% of your income to the Lord’s work). As you implement that in your life it’s a good thing, it reminds you to put God first in your life, and that all that you have belongs to Him. It’s a symbol of your devotion to Him and it helps advance His kingdom. HOWEVER, if you begin to think that tithing makes you worthy of God’s blessing, or if you think it makes you more spiritual than those who aren’t convicted of that principle yet, then that’s become a bad thing, it’s become sin and you have traveled back into bondage. Guy Caley, SermonCentral.com

¹ Utley, R. J. D. (1997). Vol. Volume 11: Paul’s First Letters: Galatians and I & II Thessalonians. Study Guide Commentary Series (46). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.