

“A Labor of Love”
Galatians 4:12b-20

I. Because he told them a hard truth, Paul had fallen out of favor with the Galatians (vs. 12-16).

- A. Despite being ill when he first met them, the Galatians accepted Paul as a man of God.
- B. Instead of rejecting the Apostle Paul, the Galatians treated him like an angel of God, or even as they would have treated Christ Himself.
- C. They loved Paul with a selfless and sacrificial love.
- D. Paul offended the Galatians by telling them the truth.

(Jeremiah 2:4-5; John 2:23-25; Acts 13:42-52)

II. Because they wanted to deceive the Galatians, the false teachers were attempting to keep Paul’s voice from being heard (vs. 17-18).

- A. The false teachers did not have the Galatians’ best interests in mind.
- B. Paul, however, did have the Galatians’ best interests in mind.

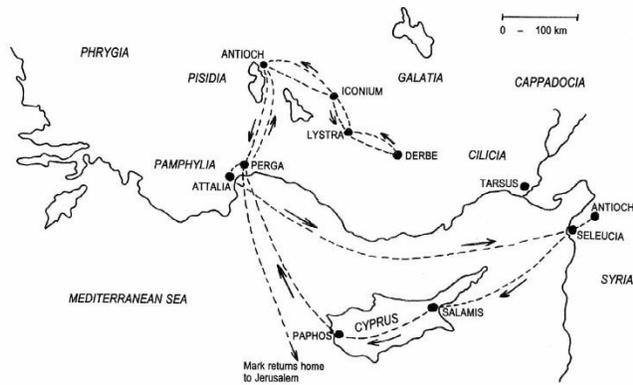
(Galatians 6:12-14)

III. Because he desired for the Galatians to mature in Christ, Paul continued laboring for them (vs. 19-20).

- A. Despite having already received Christ for salvation, the Galatians were acting like they had not received Christ.
- B. The Apostle Paul was perplexed by the behavior of the Galatians.

(Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 5:11-14)

Scripture References and Notes



Acts 13:13-14, 42-52

¹³ Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when *the meeting of the synagogue* had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. ⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’” ⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet *in protest* against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 2:4-5

⁴ Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the LORD, “What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?”

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

John 2:23-25

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, ²⁵ and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Galatians 6:12-14

¹² Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Hebrews 5:11-14

¹¹ Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.