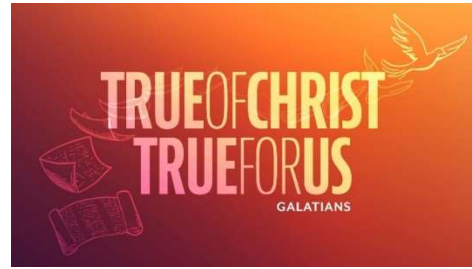


October 8, 2023
Sermon Discussion Guide
Galatians 4:8 - 20
Preacher: Brad



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Children of God Know the freedom of grace, Fellowship in the joy of truth, and are Conformed to the image of Christ

In Galatians, Paul is attempting to persuade the believers in Galatia to return to the truth of the gospel. In the previous chapters, Paul has argued theologically and presented a biblical and historical defense for the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Here, in 4:8-20, the tone shifts a bit to more of a personal appeal, revealing both Paul's anxiety and his affections for these believers. To call these believers back, Paul employs 3 contrasts for the Galatians, and you and I, to think through and wrestle with, all with the prayerful hope that they would return, remain steadfast in the gospel, and thereby live in accordance with who God has made them to be, children of God. In the 3 contrasts we hear 3 fundamental ingredients for what it means to live as God's children - know the freedom of grace, fellowship in the joy of truth, and are being conformed to the image of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Galatians 4:8-20

1. Tone. What in these verses reveals Paul's demeanor toward these believers?
 - a. What makes that notable?

4:8-11

2. What is the contrast? How does it lead to Paul's question?
3. What does it mean to know God? Why is it notable that Paul qualifies that they "have been known by God"? What does he desire for them to reflect on?
4. In what way are the Galatians "turning back"?
 - a. What connection does Paul intend for us to hear? (between worshipping idols and following the circumcision party into works-based religion)
 - b. What makes this connection significant not merely for them to hear, but for you and I to hear and wrestle with?

4:12-16

5. What is the contrast?
 - a. What is remarkable about the Galatians' initial hospitality toward Paul?
 - b. Why is their current hostility toward Paul such a big deal? Is it just the loss of friendship or respect that Paul is concerned about?
6. Do you "fellowship in the joy of God's truth"?
 - a. How do you cultivate your appetite for the truth of God's word?

4:17-20

7. Specifically, what is the goal/methods of the Judaizers? Why do they minister this way?
8. How does that contrast with Paul, and true gospel ministry? (goal/method)
9. If Paul were writing you a letter, what would he be perplexed about?
10. Who in your life labors for your sanctification? Whose sanctification are you laboring for?
11. Why are Grace and Truth both necessary for sanctification? What would happen if one of those is dropped? As you disciple others (friends, kids, etc..) which area, truth or grace, do you feel like you lack in? How can you grow in that area?