

Bible Study – Galatians 4:12-20 (GUIDE)
August 19, 2020

Galatians 4:8-9 –

⁸ Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. ⁹ So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? *Notes:*

v. 10-12 – ¹⁰ **You are trying to EARN favor with God** by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. ¹¹ I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. ¹² Dear **brothers and sisters**, I plead with you to live *as I do* in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—**free** from those laws. *Notes:*

v. 13-16 – ¹³ You know that ***because of physical infirmity*** I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ ***And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.*** ¹⁵ What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ **Have I therefore become your enemy *because I tell you the truth*?**

What was the source of the great zeal and love in the believers while Paul had been with them?

v. 17-20 – ¹⁷ They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ **My little children,** for whom *I labor in birth again* until **Christ is formed in you,** ²⁰ I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

Why might Paul refer to the Galatian believers as “*My little children*”?

What was Paul zealous for relative to the Galatians?

What were the Judaizers zealous for regarding these believers?

Consider **1 Corinthians 6:12**:

All things are lawful for me, **but not** all things are **profitable.**

All things are lawful for me, **but I will not be mastered by anything.**

What was trying to enslave these Galatian believers?

Are the Galatian believers the only believers who have ever faced the potential of falling under a different master, or being enslaved to something other than God Himself? *If not, who else should be on guard?*

What might strive to keep you enslaved?

What does Paul say in **Galatians 5:1**?

How should the words of **1 Corinthians 3:16** and **6:19-20** impact our perspective on who we will allow ourselves to be mastered by?

Is there a difference between God’s PERMISSIVE WILL and PERFECT WILL?

Which is the better place for you to live your life out?