

Freedom To Live For Christ

Galatians 4:8-20

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Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In this passage, Paul is talking about being enslaved to the things of this world. We were all subject to the things of this world until Jesus came and set us free. This week we will look at what it is that enslaves man outside of Christ, and how it affects our life. We will also talk about how Jesus has set us free. Now that we have freedom in Jesus, the question we must ask ourselves is how are we using our freedom?



Read Galatians 4:8-20 (NET)

⁸ Formerly when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods at all. ⁹ But now that you have come to know God (or rather to be known by God), how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless basic forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing religious days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I fear for you that my work for you may have been in vain. ¹² I beg you, brothers and sisters, become like me, because I have become like you. You have done me no wrong!

¹³ But you know it was because of a physical illness that I first proclaimed the gospel to you, ¹⁴ and though my physical condition put you to the test, you did not despise or reject me.

Instead, you welcomed me as though I were an angel of God, as though I were Christ Jesus himself! ¹⁵ Where then is your sense of happiness now? For I testify about you that if it were possible, you would have pulled out your eyes and given them to me! ¹⁶ So then, have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They court you eagerly, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you would seek them eagerly. ¹⁸ However, it is good to be sought eagerly for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ My children—I am again undergoing birth pains until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be with you now and change my tone of voice, because I am perplexed about you.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. What were we enslaved to in verse 8?

9. What is Paul's point about observing religious dates?

10. How can we overcome slavery to the world?

11. Why does Paul think his work may have been in vain?

12. Why did they welcome Paul when he was sick?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Are there things that we let enslave us?

14. How can we make sure we are only living for Christ and not the things of this world?

15. How should the church, the community of believers, be a safeguard for our living with Christ?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES