

Galatians 4

Bond or Free

Galatians 4:19 –31

A great anxiety of a parent is the disappointment in a child. Paul shows this in how the Galatians entertain elements of the law, which would place believers under the law, which does not save but condemns... Paul had suffered greatly to see the Galatians come to faith in Christ, now he is suffering in seeing them depart from the pure faith of salvation through faith in Christ. He states in Galatians 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”

As recent as yesterday, I was called to the home of an aging mother who has deep concern over the physical and spiritual welfare of a dear daughter who has gone down with cancer. I could see her as the mother that was bending over the crib of her little girl many years before now being in the same frame of mind.

A child may depart from a mother’s values, but a mother can never depart from her children born through travail; a child may be older but a mother continues to be moved. It is in this vain that we hear Paul share from a broken heart, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?’ He continues, “I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” All Paul’s suffering was because of the cult of Judaism that came to the doors of the new believers. These, who where astranged from the pure doctrine of salvation came, “—zealously affect you, but not well - -“. How often my heart was grieved when there had been much labor in seeing souls come to Christ to be visited by some who thought they had a more complete gospel. Why had they not come to this virgin territory to commence a work?

How often the wolves would come when the shepherd is absent as indicated in this case in that Paul had to write them a letter (V.20) having heard of the attacks of this cultic practice. This seems to have been the constant threat for new believers as he expressed in a letter to the Corinthians, II Corinthians in 13:10 “Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness

according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.” May God’s men stand up for truth in view the shabby teaching that comes from too many pulpits of ill instructed leaders.

Where is truth? Some have become so legalistic that God Himself could not break into the fellowship of these “believers”. Others are so liberal that God would not want to identify with such “believers”. Paul’s statement of correction came in the words of v. 21, “Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law”? He is asking if they know what this is all about? Paul makes the comparison of two women and two sons. One son was born of the bondwomen and the other of the freewoman; one represents the “Sinai, which gendereth to bondage”, which is the Law of Moses. One lived in the wilderness and the other in the house of promise. One represents Mount Sinai and the other represents “Jerusalem, which is above and free”.

The present conflict in the Middle East has the very setting in this scene of many years past. See Galatians 4:29 “But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now”. Interestingly, most of the martyrs of 2008 were martyred at the hands of Islam who are the offspring of the “bondwoman.” This will continue until Christ is recognized and accepted as the Savior.

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