

Galatians Study Questions

Galatians 4:8-20

⁸ However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years.¹¹ I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

¹² I beg of you, brethren, become as I *am*, for I also *have become as you are*. You have done me no wrong;¹³ but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;¹⁴ and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus *Himself*.¹⁵ Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?¹⁷ They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out, in order that you may seek them.¹⁸ But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.¹⁹ My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—²⁰ but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

1. Who is Paul specifically addressing in verses 8-11? Be prepared to discuss your answer in class.
2. Compare the similarities in wording between 4:9 and 4:3. Pay particular attention to the pronouns "we" and "you". What do you think is Paul's point here?
3. What is Paul's concern as stated in verse 11?
4. Considering the prior context, what do you think Paul is encouraging these Christians to emulate regarding himself as stated in verse 12?
5. Under what conditions did Paul preach the gospel to the Galatians the first time?
6. How did the Galatians receive him at this time?
7. What question does Paul ask the Galatians in verse 15?
8. What would they have been willing to do for him at that time?
9. What is Paul concerned has been the result of him telling the Galatians the truth?
10. Who is the "they" and "them" Paul is referring to in verse 17?
11. What figure does Paul use to describe the relationship between himself and the Galatians?
12. What is Paul's desire as stated in verse 20?