

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

October 24, 2021

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Genesis 16:1-4; 21:1-3

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Listening To The Law* (Galatians 4:21-31)

Announcements

Halloween Tracts: Samples of both *Berean Bible Society* trick or treat tracts are available on the bulletin table. If you'd like to order some, tell Pastor Kurth, and he'll bring them home from BBS and give them to you next Sunday.

Dave Stewart Memorial Searchlights: Free copies of the October issue of the *Berean Searchlight* are available on the bulletin table. They feature a tribute to Dave on Page 4.

Middlebury, IN Conference: If you want to attend this conference on Saturday, November 6, please sign the sign-up sheet on the bulletin table. Transportation will be provided.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
Galatians 4:13-20 *The Apostle Paul's Infirmary*

We know "infirmary" (4:13) can mean *any* kind of affliction, for the Lord healed all kinds of things (Lu.5:15). We think Paul's infirmary was an eye disease, for the only way he'd call Galatians a "large" epistle (Gal.6:11) is if he had to use *large letters* to write it. Paul calls his infirmary a *temptation* (4:14) because *tempt* can mean *test* (Rev.3:10). Infirmarys test to see if we'll receive them as Paul did (II Cor.12:8-10).

The Galatians didn't reject Paul for his infirmary (Gal.4:14), even though his eyes were probably *gooey*, and the Greeks despised "weak" bodies (II Cor.10:10). Their willingness to give Paul their eyes (Gal.4:15) gives more proof he had eye trouble. When he didn't scold them, it proves organ transplants and blood transfusions are okay, for eyes have blood.

Paul calls that joyful spirit of giving a "blessedness" (v.15) because the Lord said it is "more *blessed* to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). God is the most joyful person in all creation because *He is the biggest giver*. He gives us life, and *eternal* life by grace when we believe. That made the Galatians want to be givers like God. Grace always does!

But we know the law *robbed them* of that blessedness, for Paul had to tell them to pay their pastors (6:6). They went from wanting to repay Paul with their eyes for teaching them how to be saved, to not wanting to pay teachers *anything* for teaching them the Bible. Grace makes us want to be givers like God after we learn all He's given us, but if you think you're under the law, you're going to wonder why God *isn't* giving you the health and wealth He gave the Jews under the law. That made the Galatians not want to give to others.

The Galatians didn't like being called out about their legalism, so they considered Paul their enemy (Gal.4:16). But they thought of the legalizers as friends, so Paul explained why they *affected* the Galatians in verse 17. That word means *to desire*. They desired the Galatians, "but not well," i.e., not for a good purpose. They did it to make themselves look like successful leaders (cf. 6:12,13). They *excluded* them, knowing it would make them want to be part of their group even more. They did it to make the Galatians desire *them*. There's nothing wrong with being zealous (Gal.4:18) in good things, things like good works (Tit.2:13), praying for others (Col.4:12,13) and giving (II Cor.9:2). If you're *not* a giving Christian, you're acting like a child, so Paul calls them "children" (Gal.4:19). But they were *his* children, because he led them to Christ (cf. I Cor.4:15).

But if he *fathered* them, why does he say he "travailed" in birth for them? That's the mother's part! It is because Paul played both parts in their conversion, having to *labor* to bring them to Christ. He feared having to go through the labor of teaching them the basics of salvation by grace *again* now that they believed the legalizers who said they had to keep the law to be saved (Acts 15:1,5). If you believe *that*, Christ will never be formed in you, which was God's *goal* in giving birth to you (Rom.8:29). But that only comes from growing in grace, and they were growing in the law instead.

Christ came to earth in "the form of a servant" (Phil.2:5,7), and if He is formed *in you*, you'll act like a servant too. We know the Galatians weren't, because Paul had to tell them to bear one another's burdens (Gal.6:2). They were so far gone in legalism, Paul knew it would take so much work to bring them back to grace that he wished he could be there to do it in person (Gal.4:20). If he *was* there, he says he would change the tone of his "voice" from the kind and patient tone he used to lead them to Christ and make

them God's children, to something more stern and fatherly now that they *were* God's children, but were misbehaving. Not because he doubted their salvation, for he calls these Gentiles "brethren" 11 times in this epistle. He "stood in doubt" of *their understanding* of salvation, and that was affecting their joy, and their ability to *share* salvation.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

October 24, 2021

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

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