Series: Galatians: In Christ Alone, No Other Gospel

"DON'T TURN BACK!"

Galatians 4:8-20

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GALATIANS 4:8-20, NLT

⁸Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. ⁹So 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? ¹⁰You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. ¹¹I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. ¹²Dear 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.

You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you. ¹³Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News. ¹⁴But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. ¹⁶Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

¹⁷Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them. ¹⁸If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you.

¹⁹Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. ²⁰I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

*Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are from the New Living Translation of the Bible

1 - THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD DOES THE; SEEKING

WE DO THE RESPONDING

"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." 1 JOHN 4:10

2 - THE GALATIAN'S GOOD BEGINNING HAS BECOME A

BAD SITUATION

"I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News." GALATIANS 1:6

"As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness." PROVERBS 26:11

3 – PAUL WARNS THAT LEAVING THE GOSPEL IS

LEAVING GOD

"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear." 2 TIMOTHY 4:3

4 – THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL IS CONTINUAL FORMATION

AND TRANSORMATION

"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18