

THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

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Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

Overview

- After Paul left from his first visit to Galatia, discuss what happened to the Galatians.
- Compare what the Galatians did and what the Hebrews did when they came out of Egypt
- What do we learn from **Heb. 2:1-18** regarding neglecting salvation?

The Challenge: IMITATE ME AS I IMITATE CHRIST

Gal. 4:12-15

- Earlier in his letter to the Galatians, Paul called the Galatians “fools” and “backsliders.” His tone in this part of the letter changes. Discuss how/why Paul changes in this part of Galatians.
- Pastor said preaching the Gospel correctly is not the whole story. What else must the teacher do as he preaches the Gospel?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, “I have come to set the captives free?”
- In **Galatians 4:12-15**, what is Paul challenging his listeners, including us, to do?
- As Paul challenged the Galatians (and us), he reminds them he was once in bondage to the law. What did Paul do to experience freedom found only in Jesus Christ?
- Is this for the Galatians and for us?
- Paul also points to his observable life style among all people. Discuss what he was like with Jews and then with the Gentiles.
- What was he showing both groups?
- Why was it important for Paul to remind the Galatians that they still welcomed him?
- In **verse 15**, why would Paul ask the Galatians what has become of “your blessedness?”

The Question: HAVE I BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?

Gal. 4:16-20

- What was Paul telling the Galatians about “false teaching” in **verse 17**?
- How is what Paul was saying different from the “law-teachers?”
- Paul was discipling the Galatians. This discipleship is also seen in **Phil. 2:1-11**. What can we learn from this text?
- What is the right motive Paul is sharing in **verse 18**?
- In these verses, why would Paul feel like he is their enemy?

Application

- If you were a Galatian, what, as a practical matter, would you do to become “like” Paul?
- What can we learn from Paul about the work it takes to disciple others?
- How do we act as an enemy when we teach people the truth of God’s word?
- Paul is “appealing” to the Galatians. What is the “appeal” you hear from God in this message from Paul?
- As we move forward on this Journey to Greatness, what must each one of us let go of?