



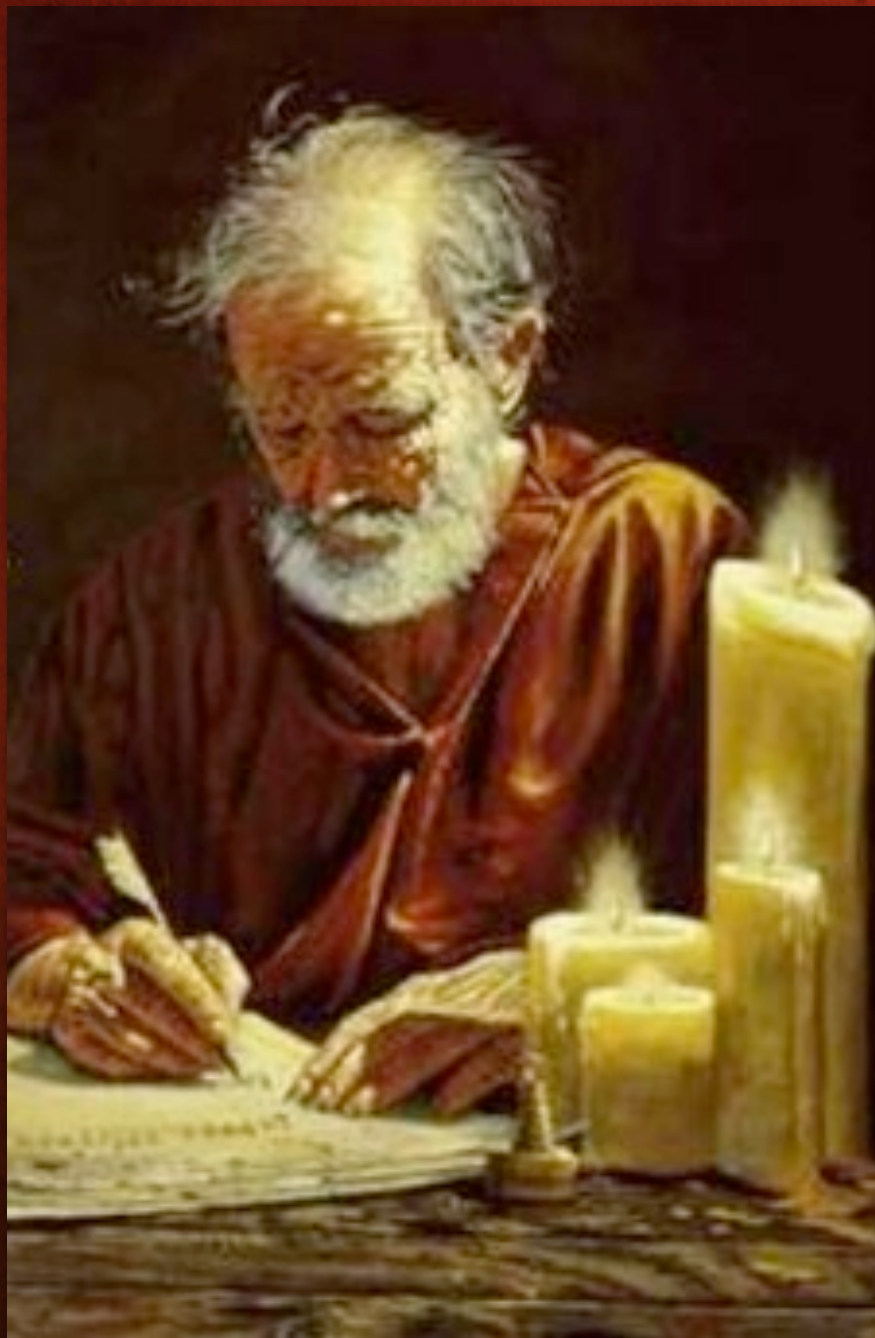
# The EPISTLE To The GALATIANS

**Paul's Concern For The Churches! –  
(4:8–20)**



# GALATIANS

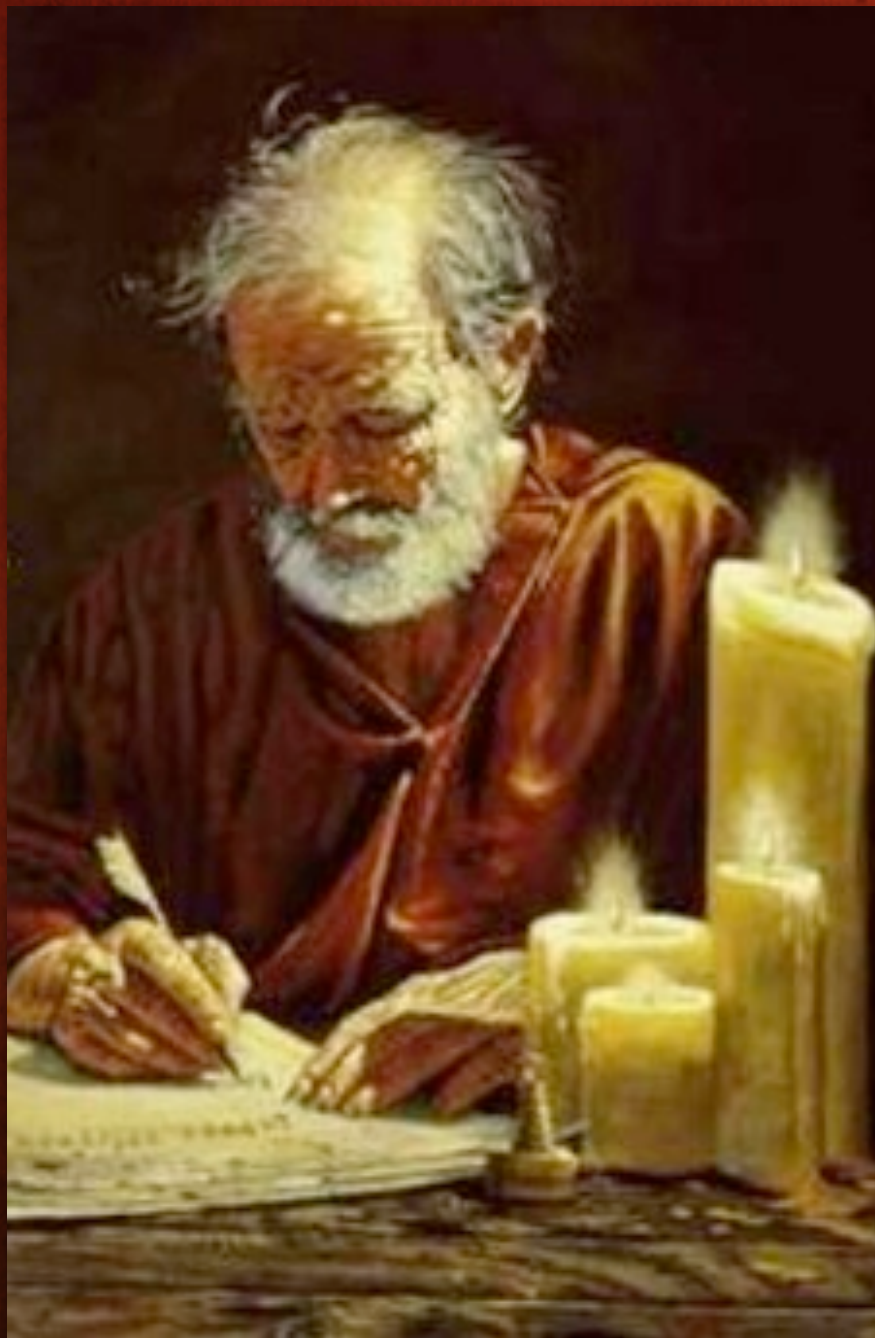
## A Perverted Gospel Is No Gospel At All



- In his epistle to the churches of Galatia, Paul:
  - ✳ Opposed those teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses.
  - ✳ Presented a series of arguments contending that we are justified by faith in Christ & not by the “works” of the Law of Moses.



# Paul Defends His Apostleship – (1:11–2:21)



## ● Paul Argues

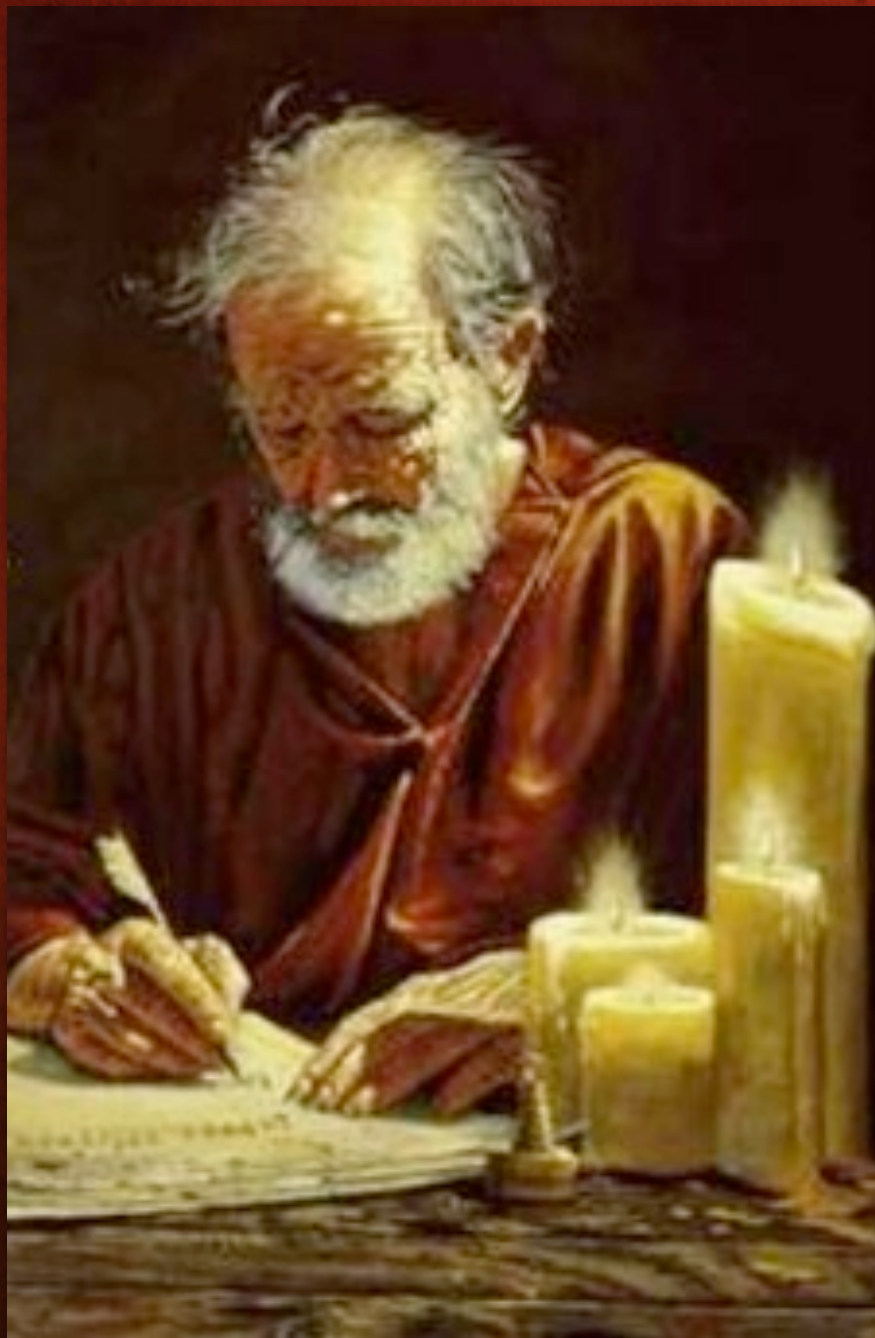
### **autobiographically that:**

- ✧ His apostleship was independent of the other apostles - The gospel he preached was directly from the Lord - 1:11,12
- ✧ He was an apostle before he met the other apostles - 1:13-17
- ✧ When he did meet them he was received as an equal 1:18-2:10
- ✧ He even found it necessary to rebuke Peter - 2:11-21



# Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)

- **Paul defends the gospel he preached**



- \* By Their Experience (3:1-5)
- \* By The Example Of Abraham (3:6-9)
- \* By The Inability of the Law to Justify the Sinner (3:10-12)
- \* By The Work Of Christ (3:13-14)
- \* By Christ Being The Fulfillment of the Seed Promise to Abraham (3:15-18)
- \* By The Purpose Of The Law to Christ through whom they are released from sin - (3:19-25)



# **In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)**



- **To seek justification by the works of the Law is to return to being but a child under a guardian still in bondage to basic elements of religion**
- **To be justified by an obedient faith in Christ is to receive the inheritance as sons of God in Christ**



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## Fear That the Galatians Will Return To A State of Bondage - (4:8-11)

Galatians 4:8-9  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

- **“When you did not know God”** – their previous status OUTSIDE of CHRIST.
- ✳ Prior to conversion the Galatians, in their ignorance of the one true God, were in bondage to false gods such as Zeus and Hermes (cf. Acts 14:11-13).



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## Fear That the Galatians Will Return To A State of Bondage - (4:8-11)

Galatians 4:8-9  
(NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

- **“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God”** – their current status IN CHRIST.
- ✳ They came to know God through Christ - 1 Cor. 1:21; Eph 2:11,12; 4:18
- ✳ Our knowledge of God directly effects our relationship with Him - Acts 17:23; 1 Thes 1:9



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- **“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God”** – their current status IN CHRIST.
- ✳ To state that God knows us is a more important & valuable reality than to merely state that we know God - 2 Tim 2:19
- ✳ What a blessing & privilege to be known by God!!



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

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<sup>9</sup> But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

- **“But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God”** – their current status IN CHRIST.
- ✳ Why turn back to a system of bondage through which they could not know God & not be in a blessed state? - (4:3)
- ✳ A system that could not justify or provide the promises of God?



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## Fear That the Galatians Will Return To A State of Bondage - (4:8-11)

Galatians 4:10,11  
(NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> You observe days  
and months and  
seasons and years.

<sup>11</sup> I am afraid for  
you, lest I have  
labored for you in  
vain.

- **“I am afraid for you”** – Adding to the gospel the works of the Law would cause them to be lost.
- ✳ The Galatians had begun to observe the Mosaic calendar.
  - Days (weekly sabbaths),
  - Months (new moons),
  - Seasons (seasonal festivals),
  - Years (sabbatical and jubilee years). (Cf. Col. 2:16.)



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:12  
(NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.

- **“I urge you to become like me”** – Paul urges them to take the same position on the Law .
  - \* Literally, “Become as I am.” Come to my ground.
  - \* **I become as ye are** - I gave up my bondage to Judaism, and made myself as a Gentile to Gentiles.
  - \* **Ye did me no wrong** - belongs with what follows - the manner in which they received him.



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:13,14  
(NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. <sup>14</sup> And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

- “you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus” – despite his physical infirmity. -
  - \* We do not know what the infirmity was, but it effected his appearance or presence with them - (cf. 2 Cor 11:30; 10:10; 11:6; 12:7-10; 1 Cor 2:3;)
  - \* Nevertheless they received him as a messenger of God - (1:11-2:29)



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:15  
(NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

- “you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus” – despite his physical infirmity. -
  - ✳ They had received Paul with joy, they considered themselves blessed through the gospel.
  - ✳ Their appreciation knew no limits.
  - ✳ Their attitude towards Paul and the gospel had changed.

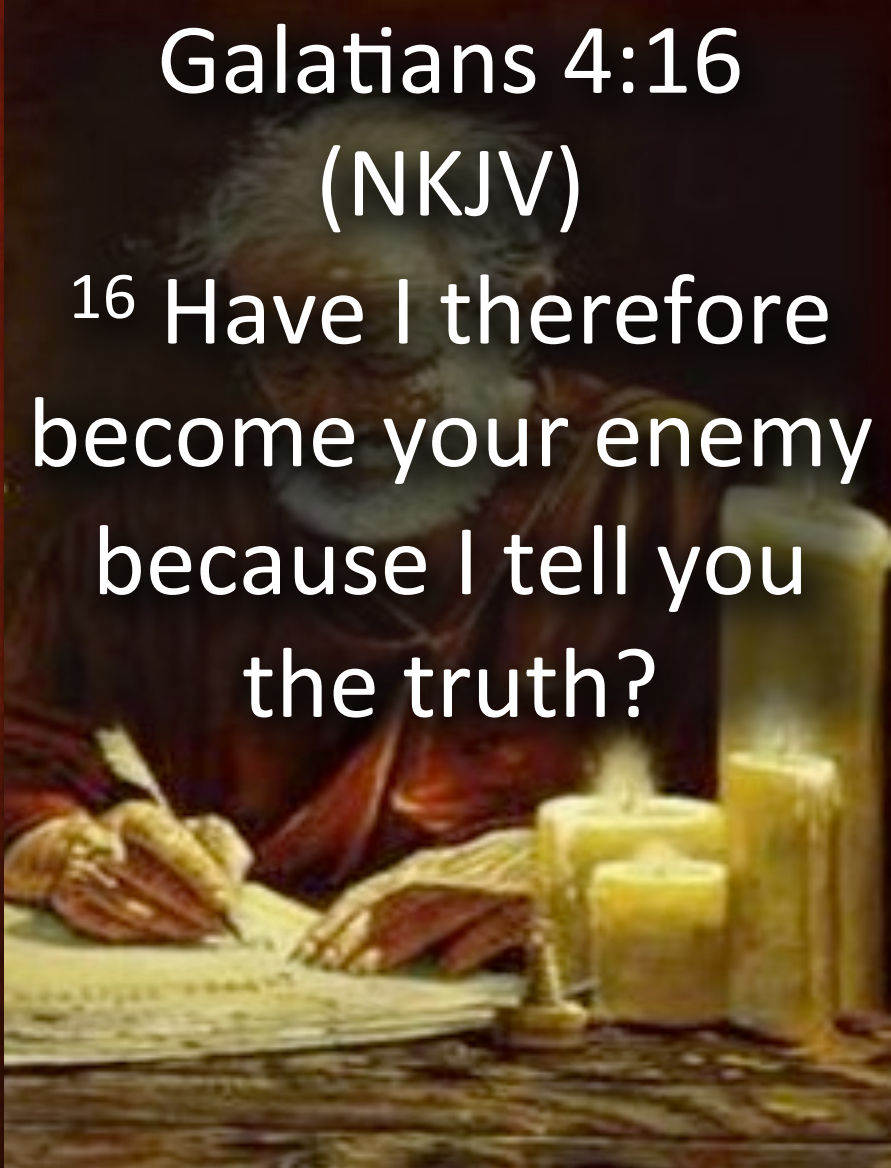


# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:16  
(NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Have I therefore  
become your enemy  
because I tell you  
the truth?



- “Have I therefore become your enemy . . .?” – The truth can cause alienation.
- ✳ Paul knew what their former conduct & attitude towards him was - sadly, it was now different
- ✳ Dealing with the Judaizing teachers had apparently alienated him from some of the Galatian brethren - Acts 15:41; 16:4



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:17,18  
(NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. <sup>18</sup> But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

- They wanted to alienate the Galatians from Paul and his teaching.
- ✳ The Judaizers were zealous to win over the Galatians so that the latter would be zealous for the Judaizers!
- ✳ Zeal for the truth is good, (Tit. 2:14), zeal for error is very dangerous & destructive - (1:14; Mat 23:15; Rom 10:2)



# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## An Appeal Based On Past Relationship With Paul - (4:12-20)

Galatians 4:19,20  
(NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

<sup>20</sup> I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

- **Paul not willing to give up on them.**
  - ✳ **My little children** - not merely as one zealously courting them (Ga 4:17, 18), but as a father to his children (1Co 4:15).
  - ✳ **I travail in birth** -- that is, like a mother in pain till birth.
  - ✳ **again** -- they needed to be converted again,



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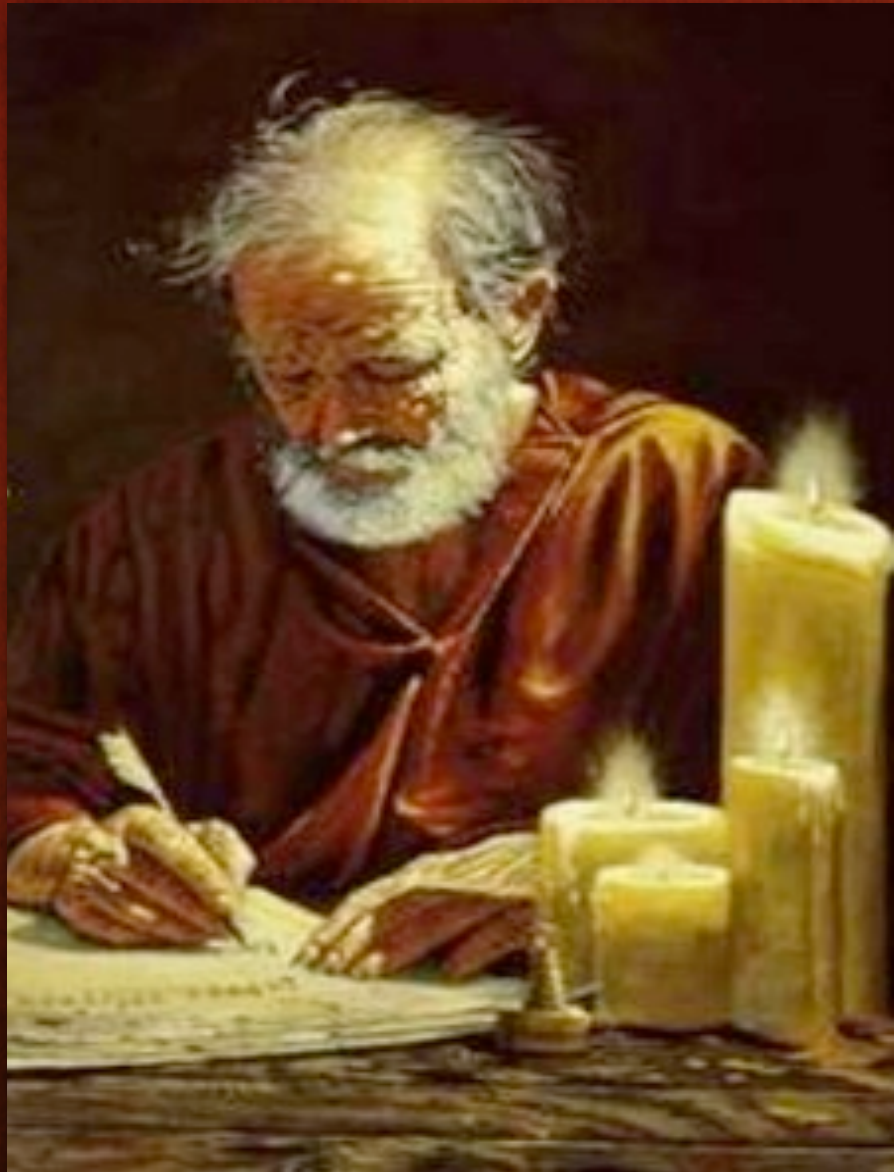
Galatians 4:19,20  
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<sup>19</sup> My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,  
<sup>20</sup> I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

- **Paul not willing to give up on them.**
  - ✳ **Until Christ be formed in you** -- That their understanding & attitudes be like that of Christ - (Ga 2:20; Php 2:5; 3:8-10; Col 1:27).
  - ✳ He had a deep desire to be with them so that he could speak gently, though firmly, concerning his grave concerns.



# **Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)**



- **Paul was concerned that they were going to adapt a system that would destroy them -**
- **Paul appeals to how they had previously received him and the gospel -**
- **Paul was genuinely concerned about them and for them -**
- **His desire was that Christ be formed in them -**



# **Are You A Child of God By Faith In Christ Jesus?**

## **GALATIANS**

Charter of Freedom

### **Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)**

**26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**  
**27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** **28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** **29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**







# Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)

## Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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