“UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU”

Galatians 4:8–31

Key Verse: 4:19

1. What contrast does Paul make, and what changed them? (8,9a; cf. 6) What does it mean that they “know”/are “known by” God? (9; cf. 1Co8:3) That they *had* been “slaves to those who by nature are not gods”? (8; cf. 3; 1Co10: 19,20) How and why does he rebuke them? (9b,10; cf. 3:3; Col2:16,20,21; 1Th1:9) What was his concern? (11; 3:4)
2. Note how Paul addresses them (12a,19a) and describes their earlier relationship (13, 14). [For what his illness might have been, see verse 15b.] What can we learn from these Galatians? (Mt10:40) What is different now? (15a,16) What “truth” had Paul told them? (2:5,14; 5:7) What does his plea to “become like” him mean? (12a; 2:19)
3. Who were these “zealous” people, what were they trying to get the Galatians to do, and what was their motive? (17; cf. 5:2; 6:12,13) In contrast, what is the right kind of zeal? (18; 2Co11:2) Read verse 19. What does he mean that he was again “in the pains of childbirth” for them? (Lk22:44; Col2:1; 4:12) What can we learn from Paul here?
4. Read verse 19 again; in his ministry to the Galatians, what was Paul’s goal? What does “Christ is formed in you” mean? (Col2:6,7; Ro8:29; Php3:10) Why is striving for this goal most important?
5. What allegory does Paul use to illustrate the difference between being slave and free? (21–23) What do these two women stand for? (24–26) What does "the Jerusalem that is above" refer to? (Heb12:22–24) To what did Paul compare the Galatians' past condition? (27) What did God do for them, and what was their present status? (28)
6. How does Paul understand their present persecution? (29) From God's point of view, which of the sons should be cast out? (30) Who receives “the inheritance”? What is Paul's conclusion? (31)