

# You Were Slaves



## Galatians 4:8-20

# You Were Slaves

## Galatians Review

- The Setting
- The Author
- The Issue
  - The Judaizers
  - The Law
  - The Gospel



# You Were Slaves

## Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup> You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. <sup>12</sup> I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

# You Were Slaves

## Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>13</sup> As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. <sup>14</sup> Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. <sup>15</sup> What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?



# You Were Slaves

## Galatians 4:8-20

<sup>17</sup> Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. <sup>18</sup> It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. <sup>19</sup> My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup> how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Problem – Return to Slavery**

**2 types of slavery/self-righteousness**

- **Self-righteousness:**

- Reliance on self rather than Jesus for righteousness
- Essentially boils down to the statement, “I don’t need Jesus”
- Righteousness incorrectly measured in comparison to others
- Includes both “religious people” and “irreligious people”

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Problem – Return to Slavery**

**2 types of slavery/self-righteousness**

**1. Slavery to false gods(former life)**

- Slaves to demons
- Demon gods needed to be appeased
- Commitment to rituals and practices determined good or bad life
- Pagan religious practices based on superstition and human effort
- Central motivation for pagan worship was self-preservation

# You Were Slaves

## The Problem – Return to Slavery

2 types of slavery/self-righteousness

1. Slavery to false gods (former life)

2. Slavery to the Law

- Putting yourself under the Law was equal to pagan worship
- Trying to appease God by being a good enough person (following the law and its requirements)
- Good comes as a result of following the rules (superstition & human effort)



# You Were Slaves

## The Solution – Be Like Me!

- Paul's former life
  - Slave to the law (from death)
  - Faith in Christ (to life) – Gal 2:19-21

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Consequences**

### **1. Loss of Joy**

- The crushing weight of the Law robs us of our joy
- Our best efforts are useless in trying to meet God's perfect standard
- Self-righteous activity is not a product of faith and therefore is sin

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Consequences**

**1. Loss of Joy**

**2. Rejection of Truth**

- Self-righteous activity makes us suspicious of truth
- Slavery blinds us to truth
- We embrace suspicion and self-righteous activity because we have been deceived
- When confronted with truth, we are offended and lash out

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Consequences**

**1.Loss of Joy**

**2.Rejection of Truth**

**3.Alienation from Safety**

- We distance ourselves from the very thing that saves us and the people God has graciously given us**



# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Problem Today**

### **1. We subject ourselves to slavery**

- We are slaves to the god of “self”
- Our time, money, energy and efforts are sacrificed in an attempt to appease our own unquenchable desires
- We constantly compare ourselves with others fueling our endless need to consume and gather more stuff
- We attempt to try harder to please God by trying to be a good person
- Our motivation is self-preservation

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Problem Today**

- 1. We subject ourselves to slavery**
- 2. We are a people robbed of joy**
  - Our world is filled with depression and despair as our culture relentlessly preaches “self”**
  - We chase happiness instead of joy**

# **You Were Slaves**

## **The Problem Today**

- 1. We subject ourselves to slavery**
- 2. We are a people robbed of joy**
- 3. We are paralyzed by doubt**
  - Truth is on trial – suspicion of anything claiming to be truth is preached emphatically by culture**
  - We alienate ourselves from the church – the very thing God has given us to prevent this**
  - We struggle with assurance – direct result of self-righteous activity**

# You Were Slaves

## The Solution Today

1. Embrace the Gospel

2. Live by Faith

3. Come to Jesus

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

– Jesus of Nazareth



# You Were Slaves



## Galatians 4:8-20