

Fears for the Church

⁸ But then, indeed, ^jwhen you did not know God, ^kyou served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now ^lafter you have known God, or rather are known by God, ^mhow *is it that* you turn again to ⁿthe weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰ ^oYou observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I am afraid for you, ^plest I have labored for you in vain.

¹² Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I *became* like you. ^qYou have not injured me at all. ¹³ You know that ^rbecause of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject,

Galatians 4:8-14a (NIV)

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ 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? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. ¹² I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. ¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴ Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn.

Galatians 4:8-14a (NA26)

⁸ Ἀλλὰ τότε μὲν οὐκ εἰδότες θεὸν ἐδουλεύσατε τοῖς φύσει μὴ οὖσιν θεοῖς· ⁹ νῦν δὲ γνόντες θεόν, μᾶλλον δὲ γνωσθέντες ὑπὸ θεοῦ, πῶς ἐπιστρέφετε πάλιν ἐπὶ τὰ ἀσθενῆ καὶ πτωχὰ στοιχεῖα οἷς πάλιν ἄνωθεν δουλεῦειν θέλετε ¹⁰ ἡμέρας παρατηρεῖσθε καὶ μῆνας καὶ καιροὺς καὶ ἐνιαυτούς, ¹¹ φοβοῦμαι ὑμᾶς μή πως εἰκῆ κεκοπίακα εἰς ὑμᾶς. ¹² Γίνεσθε ὡς ἐγώ, ὅτι καγὼ ὡς ὑμεῖς, ἀδελφοί, δέομαι ὑμῶν. οὐδέν με ἠδικήσατε· ¹³ οἴδατε δὲ ὅτι δι' ἀσθένειαν τῆς σαρκὸς εὐηγγελισάμην ὑμῖν τὸ πρότερον, ¹⁴ καὶ τὸν πειρασμὸν ὑμῶν ἐν τῇ σαρκί μου οὐκ ἐξουθενήσατε οὐδὲ ἐξεπτύσατε,

^j 1 Cor. 1:21; Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:5; 2 Thess. 1:8

^k Rom. 1:25

^l [1 Cor. 8:3]

^m Gal. 3:1–3; Col. 2:20

ⁿ Heb. 7:18

^o Rom. 14:5; Col. 2:16

^p 1 Thess. 3:5

^q 2 Cor. 2:5

^r 1 Cor. 2:3

but you received me ^sas an ⁵angel of God, ^teven as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵

⁶What 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. ¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

¹⁷ They ^uzealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ ^vMy little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

^s Mal. 2:7

⁵ Or messenger

Galatians 4:14b-20 (NIV)

Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. ¹⁹

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

^t [Luke 10:16]

⁶ NU Where

Galatians 4:8b-20 (NA26)

ἀλλὰ ὡς ἄγγελον θεοῦ ἐδέξασθε με, ὡς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν. ¹⁵ ποῦ οὖν ὁ μακαρισμὸς ὑμῶν μαρτυρῶ γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰ δυνατὸν τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ὑμῶν ἐξορύξαντες ἐδώκατε μοι. ¹⁶ ὥστε ἐχθρὸς ὑμῶν γέγονα ἀληθεύων ὑμῖν ¹⁷ ζηλοῦσιν ὑμᾶς οὐ καλῶς, ἀλλὰ ἐκκλείσαι ὑμᾶς θέλουσιν, ἵνα αὐτοὺς ζηλοῦτε. ¹⁸ καλὸν δὲ ζηλοῦσθαι ἐν καλῷ πάντοτε καὶ μὴ μόνον ἐν τῷ παρεῖναι με πρὸς ὑμᾶς. ¹⁹ τέκνα μου, οὓς πάλιν ὠδίνω μέχρις οὗ μορφωθῆ Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν. ²⁰ ἤθελον δὲ παρεῖναι πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἄρτι καὶ ἀλλάξαι τὴν φωνήν μου, ὅτι ἀποροῦμαι ἐν ὑμῖν.

^u Rom. 10:2

^v 1 Cor. 4:15