



## PAUL'S CONCERN

(Galatians 4:12-20)

### BECOME LIKE ME (12)

- Paul was a Jew that had been liberated from OT Law by Christ; as such, he ministered the gospel as one without Law to Gentiles who also were not under Jewish Law (*"I became like you"*; 12; 1 Cor 9:19-22; Rom 2:14)
- Paul wanted the Galatians to also be free of legalism through faith in Christ (*"become like me"*; 12; 5:1,18)

### LEGAL PERIL (13-18)

- God had used an illness to originally lead Paul to Galatia to preach the gospel. His infirmity was a burden to the Galatians; nevertheless, they had eagerly received Paul and his teaching as from God (12-15; 2 Cor 10:10; 12:7)
- After Paul's departure, false teachers led the Galatians astray – they were now seeking God's blessings in Jewish ritual, rather than in Christ. Would they also turn away from Paul and his warnings? (15-17,21; 1:6; 3:1)
- Paul desired the Galatians to be zealous for Christ in all circumstances (*not depending on Paul's presence*; 18)

### A MOTHER'S CONCERN (19-20)

- Paul's concern for the Galatians was like that of a mother for her children; he had once laboured to see them born again – he was willing to endure similar pain for the sake of their spiritual growth in Christ (19-20; 2 Cor 11:28)

## APPLICATION

Consider the following questions in applying what we've learned:

1. Do you understand (and believe) the liberty that Christ has given you from legal requirements (such as Old Testament Law)?
2. Is your walk with Christ such that you could say to other believers "become like me"?  
*(see also Php 3:17; 4:9)*
3. Is your reception of others and their teaching affected by their outward appearance and well-being? Does this change if they correct you when you are in error?
4. Are you zealous for Christ "24/7"? Are you easily led astray when you are not in the presence of other Christians?
5. Do you have "parental concern" for the spiritual welfare of other believers? In particular, new Christians who might easily be led astray?

*"...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)*