

Galatians 4:12-21 Am I Your Enemy?

1. Be as I am • Galatians 4:12-15

- a. "Be as I am" Free from the law, bondage. Stand in liberty (don't be carnally minded). (Gal 5:1)
- b. Temptation, infirmity? Trials. Paul faced many. (2 Cor 11:23-27, 12:7-10)
- c. Once Paul was received gladly, praised, highly esteemed. They received the gospel gladly.
- d. Christ sent Paul, and Paul did a work in Christ's stead. (2 Cor 5:20, 1 Cor 4:15-16)
- e. Paul admonishes, "be ye followers of me". Not the world, not Israel, but as one taught of the Lord according to His most recent revelation. (1 Cor 11:1)
- f. "Blessedness" Not circumcision, not by the law. Righteousness without works. (Rom 4:6, 9)
- g. Then came the objections, and the departing. Much like today. (Gal 1:6)

2. Am I your enemy? • Galatians 4:16

- a. Paul is speaking the same thing he spoke before. It's not about what we do, but all about what Christ did.
- b. The Galatians lack understanding that Paul is attempting to provide, so much so that they are actively opposing the truth. (2 Tim 2:7, 2 Tim 1:15)
- c. Those who preach contrary to the gospel of the grace of God are enemies of the cross. (Phil 3:18)
- d. We are to admonish enemies, perhaps they can be restored. (2 Thess 3:14-15)
- e. We should attempt to restore those caught in a snare like the Galatians. (Gal 6:1, Philemon 1:11, 2 Tim 2:24-26)
- f. Consider thyself, you need to have understanding if you will attempt to restore. (Gal 6:1)

3. Zealous affection • Galatians 4:17-18

- a. To be zealously affected is a good thing. But not if the thing affecting you is wrong. Error is never profitable. (Titus 2:14)
- b. Paul was zealous according to Israel's religion. (Phil 3:18, Gal 1:14)
 - i. The traditions of His fathers. Paul knew the law. (2 Cor 11:22-23)
 - ii. The Israelites stumbled and fell on this issue. (Rom 10:2)
 - iii. Yet the law ought to be counted as nothing compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. (Phil 3:8)

4. My little children • Galatians 4:19-21

- a. This phrase has to do with how they are minded. (1 Cor 2:16 - 3:1)
- b. The Galatians need to know, and acknowledge (reckon) Spiritual things to be true. (Eph 3:17-19)
- c. To be restored, they require this acknowledgement. (2 Tim 2:25, Col 2:2)
- d. To grow in Spiritual understanding, to increase faith, is to put on the mind of Christ. This does not come by the law. (1 Cor 14:20)

- e. Paul stands in doubt of what the Galatians could possibly be thinking. Having begun in the Spirit they were persuaded to turn to the weak and beggarly.
- f. Do ye not hear the law? (The lesson of the law needs to be learned.)