

A Study in Galatians
Galatians 4: 12-20

How did you do in 2021?

Paul shows us...

- **The Godly** _____

- **The Godly** _____

- **The ungodly** _____

- **The Godly** _____

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Message Application:

The message today comes to us at the end of another year. With the new year right around the corner to look forward to. It is also that time of looking back on the year that is passing. Like the Galatians, when we look back we will see times when we were at our best and times we were at our worst.

Paul appeals to the Galatians to remember their first encounter with Jesus and with himself. Paul talks about their zeal for Jesus, which came to them by faith and their love of the Apostle who came to them in a weak, ill state (Gal 4:13).

Paul asked the Galatians, *15 Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then?* (Gal 4:15)

That is a trait of legalism. It becomes rather joyless. The gratitude of grace is gone. Instead it is replaced by a sense of competition. We have to do more work to make ourselves more holy. The Galatians were ready to give up the gift of God's grace for self-righteousness. Their shift to legalism was causing great grief for Paul. So the Apostle pleads that they, *live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.* (Gal 4: 12b)

When Paul says he had become like the Gentile Galatians he isn't saying that he became pagan. He is saying that the truth of the Gospel came to him and the Galatians free from

the Law. Free because there is nothing they can do to earn it. So Paul tells them to remember.

He tells us the same. My dear friend, as you look back over 2021, I know there have been trials. There have been times of spiritual battles. There have been losses. It is in the midst of the hard times Jesus calls you to move on. If you are going to think about the past, think about the past victories. Remember the times God has used you. Remember the joy of your salvation!

This last week of 2021 remember what Jesus took you from; sin, destruction, fear and isolation! Remember that you are a child of the Most High LORD. Then take some time for meditation; for contemplation of where Jesus is leading you in 2022. I know He has great things in store for you. Go in Grace!

Peace & Grace,

Wm. Lyons