

## Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

*A Study in Ruth & Galatians*

### Galatians 4:12–20

**Read Galatians 4:12–20.**

1. How would you describe the way Paul feels as he writes this section of his letter?
  
2. What do you think Paul means when he says that he became like the Galatians? (1 Cor. 9:21–23)
  
3. The Galatians are being led astray by thinking they need to keep the Jewish law in addition to having faith in Christ. In what way does Paul want the Galatians to become like him? (3:25, 5:1)
  
4. Although we do not know the nature of Paul's illness, we do know that "most ancient Greeks considered disease and disability to be signs of divine displeasure, or even demonic influence."<sup>1</sup>
  - a) How does Paul say the Galatians *could have* responded to him because of his illness? (v. 14a)
  
  - b) How *did* they respond to Paul in spite of it? (v. 14b)
  
  - c) What does verse 15b tell us about how the Galatians felt towards Paul when he first came to them?
  
5. There has been a significant shift in the relationship between Paul and the Galatians. Previously a dear friend, how does Paul fear the Galatians regard him now? (v. 16)
  
6. Paul and the false teachers have different goals.
  - a. What do the false teachers want? (v. 17)
  
  - b. What does Paul want for the Galatians? (v. 19)

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<sup>1</sup>Ryken, Philip Graham. *Galatians* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2005), 174.

7. What does it mean for Christ to be fully formed in the believer? (5:22–26; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:13, 15)
8. What do Paul's address of "dear children" (v. 19) and his image of childbirth communicate about his heart for the Galatians?
9. Why is Paul perplexed? (1:6)
10. Why do you think Paul wishes he could be present with the Galatians? (Consider the difference between communicating face-to-face and via letter.)
11. What tone do you think Paul wishes he could use?
12. Paul is not unaffected by the Galatians' desertion of the faith. What hints do we get of the pain Paul was experiencing as a result of this? (vv. 12a, 15, 19b, 20)
13. Paul is not the only one who loved people who have wandered or deliberately turned from the true gospel. How does Paul's example challenge you?
14. Paul uses a question in verse 15 to help the Galatians see what they've lost.
  - a. What have they lost?
  - b. Why? (4:8–9; 5:1–4)
15. Would you describe your life as being characterized by joy? Use your answer to examine your heart before the Lord.