

Study of Galatians / Lesson 8 – Galatians 4:12-20  
Bellevue Church of Christ – Winter 2021

Past and Present  
Relationship

Received me...

-An incredible sign of respect  
-Receiving him this way was right, because he was an approved messenger of God to deliver the message of Jesus Christ.

\*Gal 1:1

-Paul still knew that he was a sinner and was not worthy of worship.

\*Acts 14:8-18

\*1Co 15:8-11

Paul is astonished by the change in their relationship  
-1:6-9; 3:1; 4:9

Make Much of You

- ζήλω (zēlōō): 2  
Possible Meanings

(1) Jealous / Envy  
(2) Concern / Eagerness  
\*2Co 11:2

Galatians 4:17 (NASB95)

<sup>17</sup> They **eagerly seek** you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

Galatians 4:17 (NIV84)

<sup>17</sup> 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.

In what ways would Paul want the Galatians to be like him? - Phil 4:9

<sup>12</sup>Brothers, I entreat you, *become as I am*, for ***I also have become as you are.*** You did me no wrong.

<sup>13</sup>You know it was *because of a bodily ailment* that I preached the gospel to you at first,

<sup>14</sup>and though my condition was a *trial to you*, you did not scorn or despise me, but **received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.** <- They received him this way even though he had not been at his best.

<sup>15</sup>What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, ***you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.***

<sup>16</sup>Have I then **become your enemy** by telling you the truth?

<sup>17</sup>They **make much of you**, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may **make much of them.** <- Rom 10:1-4

<sup>18</sup>It is always good to be **made much of for a good purpose**, and not only when I am present with you,

<sup>19</sup>my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until **Christ is formed in you!**

<sup>20</sup>I wish I could be present with you now and **change my tone**, for I am *perplexed about you.*

Paul doesn't indicate that he would change his message, but his tone.

Why would he be able to change his tone if here were there?

1Co 9:19-23

"I have made myself a servant to all"

Bodily Ailment?

Stoned at Lystra

-Acts 14:19-23

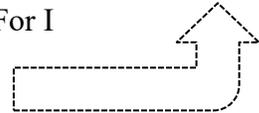
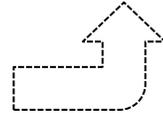
-2Ti 3:10-13

Thorn in the Flesh

-2Co 12:7-10

Eye Problems

-v. 15; 6:11



<- Zeal is great if it is directed at God and based on knowledge.

<- Paul contrasts his "good purpose" against that of the Judaizing teachers.

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**Become as I Am**

**Philippians 4:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Become as You Are**

**1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

**Bodily Ailment**

**Acts 14:19–23 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my**

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power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Galatians 6:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

**Received Me**

**Galatians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

**Acts 14:8–18 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, <sup>10</sup> said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. <sup>11</sup> And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, <sup>15</sup> “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. <sup>16</sup> In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. <sup>17</sup> Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” <sup>18</sup> Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

**1 Corinthians 15:8–11 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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**Paul's Astonishment**

**Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

**Galatians 3:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

**Galatians 4:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

**Make Much of You**

**Galatians 4:17 (NASB95)**

<sup>17</sup> They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

**Galatians 4:17 (NIV84)**

<sup>17</sup> 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.

**Galatians 4:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

**Galatians 4:17 (KJV 1900)**

<sup>17</sup> They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

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**2420** ζηλώω (*zēloō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 7861; Str 2206—**1.** LN 25.76 **set one's heart on**, be deeply committed to something (1Co 12:31); **2.** LN 25.46 **have deep concern for** (Gal 4:17); **3.** LN 25.21 **covet**, desire another's possessions (Jas 4:2), for another interp, see next; **4.** LN 88.163 **be jealous**, be envious (Ac 7:9; 17:5; 1Co 13:4; Jas 4:2), note there may be overlap with the verses and entries<sup>1</sup>

**ζηλώω zēloō**; from 2205*b*; *to be jealous*:—am jealous(1), becoming jealous(1), desire earnestly(2), eagerly seek(1), eagerly sought(1), earnestly desire(1), envious(1), jealous(2), seek(1).<sup>2</sup>

**2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**Romans 10:1–4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.