



GALATIANS

STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 4:12-20

KEY POINTS

1. **Personal Concern and Affection:**
 - Paul refers to them as "my little children" (Galatians 4:19), highlighting the paternal care he feels for them in their spiritual journey.
2. **Previously Warm Relationship:**
 - Paul reminds the Galatians of their warm and welcoming reception of him when he first preached the gospel to them.
3. **Perplexity at their Current State:**
 - Paul expresses his perplexity and disappointment at how the Galatians' attitude towards him has changed. He wonders if his efforts on their behalf have been in vain and if they are now turning away from the truth of the gospel.

SCRIPTURE

12 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 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. 15 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. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. 18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! 20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Exposition

1. What does Paul mean when he says "Become as I am, for I also have become as you are"?
2. According to verse 13, why did Paul initially preach the gospel to the Galatians?
3. In verse 15, how are the Galatians described in relation to Paul? Why might they have changed their attitude towards him?
4. What metaphor does Paul use in verse 19 to describe his concern for the Galatians?

Themes and Theological Insights

1. What are the main themes addressed in this passage?
2. How does Paul emphasize the importance of true Christian fellowship and care for one another?
3. What does Paul's concern for the Galatians reveal about his role as an apostle and spiritual leader?

Application

1. How can the principles outlined in this passage be applied to modern Christian communities?
2. What can we learn about the nature of spiritual mentorship and guidance from Paul's relationship with the Galatians?
3. How can we guard against drifting away from the true gospel message, as the Galatians were in danger of doing?
4. What specific actions can we take to apply the teachings of this passage in our own lives and in our relationships with fellow believers?

PRAYER PROMPTS

1. Thank God for the spiritual leaders and mentors in your life who have guided you in your faith journey.
2. Pray for the spiritual well-being of your fellow believers, asking God to strengthen their faith and guard them from any influences that may lead them astray.
3. Pray for unity and genuine fellowship within your church or Christian community. Ask God to help you support and care for one another in love.
4. Pray for discernment to recognize false teachings and ideologies that may threaten to lead you or others away from the true gospel.