

Paul's Marks of a Believer

Galatians 4:8-20

I. _____ God's Grace 8-11

A Christian is simply someone who _____ God. These Galatians, at one time, were _____, worshipping _____, worshipping _____ and other gods. Once they heard the gospel, learning of God's free grace, they became fully devoted followers of Jesus. Would you go back the _____? Paul is shocked that these Galatians are attempting to return there, basically re-enrolling in a _____ for theology.

Paul tells them that, basically, they were returning to OT rituals and this was no better than _____. That approach had led them back to where they were before coming to Jesus.

II. _____ God's Grace 12-16

This second mark is that the Galatian believers, as fully devoted followers of Jesus, are to _____ God's grace. These Galatians, at one point, were joyful. Paul recalled his visit there, having some physical issue needing attention. We're not sure what it was, maybe _____? Was it a problem with his _____? The _____ to a man then was his most valuable possession.

One thing is for sure and note this well: God uses our _____ to _____ His purposes. Did Paul like that he had a problem? I hear it often after we get a positive answer to prayer that "God is _____." It makes it sound like He's not good unless we get our way. God is good.....all the time.

Even with his problems, they did not _____ him, although they could have. They actually viewed him as an _____ of God. Yet, now they were beginning to turn against him. Nothing had changed about His message.

The second mark of a fully devoted follower today is that we _____ the grace of God, His Word.

III. _____ God's Grace 17-20

When a fully devoted follower experiences God's Grace and enjoys God's Grace, she will necessarily embody God's Grace, His Son. These legalistic Judaizers wanted the Galatians to look like legalistic _____, not sons and daughters of the Great High King, Jesus. Their teaching was dividing the church. Paul, understanding what he did about the gospel, could have incorporated his pharisaic religious understanding into his teaching...but he didn't. Paul

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also understood that there were those who acted differently when he was around them.

Last week, we saw that John Wesley was a better unbeliever (thinking he was a Christian) than many Christians. Later in life, he realized the wasted efforts in that approach and believed in the sufficiency of Christ.

John Newton