

## Galatians 4:15-25

**15-17.** What then was the **BLESSING** you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, **if possible, you would have PLUCKED OUT your own EYES and given them to me.** Have I therefore **BECOME your ENEMY because I TELL YOU the TRUTH?** They **ZEALOUSLY** court you, but for no good; yes, **they want to exclude you, that you may be ZEALOUS for them.**

- **Ephesians 1:3** "\_\_\_\_\_ be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has \_\_\_\_\_ us with every spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in heavenly places in \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Ephesians 1:13** "In whom also you trusted, after you had heard the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation: in whom also after you had \_\_\_\_\_, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"
- **3 John 3-4** "For I \_\_\_\_\_ greatly when brethren came and testified of the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you, just as you walk in the \_\_\_\_\_. I have no greater \_\_\_\_\_ than to hear that my children walk in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "You would have PLUCKED OUT your own EYES"** - This could just be an expression, such as "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse" or "he's really a pain in the neck." Or **it's possible that Paul's physical infirmity had affected his eyesight.** Either way, it shows how much the Galatian believers loved Paul, and even treated him as if he were "an angel of God" or Christ Himself, and he is wondering why they have now turned against him.

- **Galatians 4:13-14** "You know that because of \_\_\_\_\_ I preached the \_\_\_\_\_ to you at the \_\_\_\_\_. And my \_\_\_\_\_ which was in my \_\_\_\_\_ you did \_\_\_\_\_ despise or reject, but you \_\_\_\_\_ me as an \_\_\_\_\_ of God, even as Christ Jesus."

**Definition: "Have I BECOME your ENEMY because I TELL YOU the TRUTH?"** - Some of the Galatian Christians were treating Paul as if he were now the enemy, and their thinking had become so twisted because of listening to the false teachers. **If you listen to a LIE enough times, even the TRUTH starts to sound wrong.**

- **Galatians 2:5** "To whom we did \_\_\_\_\_ yield \_\_\_\_\_ even for an hour, that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ might continue with you."
- **Galatians 2:14** "But when I saw that they were \_\_\_\_\_ straightforward about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, I said to Peter before them all, 'If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?'"
- **2 John 1-4** "The Elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, and not only I, but also all those who have known the \_\_\_\_\_, because of the \_\_\_\_\_ which abides in us and will be with us forever: grace, mercy and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in \_\_\_\_\_ and love. I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in \_\_\_\_\_, as we received commandment from the Father."

**Definition: "They ZEALOUSLY court you..... that you may be ZEALOUS for them"** - Cults and false religions like to "steal converts" away from true Christian churches. In our day and age, the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, "Moonies" and other cults go door-to-door or hang out around college campuses looking for gullible

and naive people who do not know the Bible well enough to refute them. In Paul's day, these false teachers called the "Judaizers" wanted to "court" or lure away Christians who were ignorant of the truth, and get them to become "zealous" (on fire, radical, enthusiastic) for their cause.

- **Romans 10:2-3** "For I bear them witness that they have a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ according to \_\_\_\_\_. For they being \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, and seeking to establish their \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, have not \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "They have a ZEAL for GOD, but NOT according to KNOWLEDGE" - ZEAL means "To be excited, have intense enthusiasm and devotion for a cause."** Many people in false religions and cults seem to have more devotion and enthusiasm for their religious group than the real Christians, but it is unbalanced, and "not according to knowledge." In other words, **they think they have to earn their way to God**, so they are driven with a fierce, almost crazy devotion to their cause, such as religious fanatics who are willing to blow themselves up with a bomb, in order to "earn their way into heaven" or whatever. **They are "seeking to establish their own righteousness"** rather than submitting to **the righteousness that God offers us by faith in His Son Jesus Christ**. One of my favorite true stories in the Old Testament is where Elijah, the prophet of the Lord, went against 450 prophets of the false god Baal. Elijah said that the true God would be able to send fire down from heaven to burn up their sacrifices. The prophets of Baal went to such extremes to try to get their "god" to answer them, **yelling and leaping, and finally they even CUT THEMSELVES until blood gushed out**, and still nothing happened. **They had "zeal" for their god**, but it was misdirected, and their "god" was false.

- **I Kings 18:24-28** "Then you call on the name of your \_\_\_\_\_, and I will call on the name of the \_\_\_\_\_; and the God who answers by \_\_\_\_\_, He is God. So all the people answered and said, 'It is well spoken.' Now Elijah said to the prophets of \_\_\_\_\_, 'Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of your \_\_\_\_\_, but put no fire under it.' So they took the bull which was given to them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal (prayed to him) from morning even till noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us!' But there was \_\_\_\_\_ voice; no one answered. And they \_\_\_\_\_ about the altar which they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah \_\_\_\_\_ them and said, 'Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is \_\_\_\_\_, or he is on a \_\_\_\_\_, or perhaps he is \_\_\_\_\_, and must be awakened.' So they cried aloud, and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves, as was their custom, with \_\_\_\_\_ and lances, until the \_\_\_\_\_ gushed out on them."

**18-20.** But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. **My little children, for whom I LABOR in BIRTH AGAIN until Christ is FORMED in YOU**, I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

- **Romans 8:29** "For whom \_\_\_\_\_ foreknew, He also predestined to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_, that He might be the \_\_\_\_\_ among many \_\_\_\_\_."
- **John 3:3-7** "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be \_\_\_\_\_ when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be \_\_\_\_\_? Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_ of water and the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is \_\_\_\_\_

of the flesh is flesh, and that which is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ again.'"

**Definition: "I LABOR in BIRTH AGAIN until Christ is FORMED in YOU"** - God's word tells us that we are "born again" or "born of God" when we accept Jesus as our Savior. Now, Paul is using the illustration of a woman in labor (birth pangs) to show how he is praying for these new Believers in Christ, so that "Christ will be formed in them." **That is the "LABOR in BIRTH AGAIN"** - his prayers and work in teaching them the TRUTH of God's word. They were born spiritually the first time when they accepted Christ and were saved, and now, **Paul is "laboring again" to see that they are conformed to the image of Christ**, and Christ formed in them, which just means that they become more and more like Jesus Christ in their lives.

- **I Peter 1:23** "Having been \_\_\_\_\_, not of corruptible \_\_\_\_\_ but incorruptible, through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which lives and abides forever."
- **John 1:13** "Who were \_\_\_\_\_ not of blood, nor of the will of the \_\_\_\_\_, nor of the will of man, but of \_\_\_\_\_."
- **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in \_\_\_\_\_, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_; old things are passed away, behold, \_\_\_\_\_ things have become \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "He cannot see the kingdom of God"** - Jesus lets Nicodemus (and everyone else) know that it is NOT the keeping of laws, commandments, ordinances, rules, regulations or ANY OUTWARD CONDUCT of "the flesh" that makes a person RIGHTEOUS and WORTHY to be a part of God's Kingdom. It must be **an INWARD CHANGE, a NEW BIRTH, a NEW CREATION by GOD** of a COMPLETELY NEW PERSON, for someone to be a part of His Kingdom.

- **Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven."
- **I Corinthians 15:50** "Now this I say, brethren, that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ cannot inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

**Definition: "The POOR in SPIRIT"** - This means being HUMBLE, having HUMILITY, the opposite of PRIDE. What does this have to do with Jesus saying a person must be born again? Because **no one can come to Jesus by faith and be BORN again, unless they are "poor in spirit" or humble**, and admit that they cannot earn their way to heaven. This would be the hardest part for someone like Nicodemus, because he thought he already had it made with God.

**Definition: "Conformed to the IMAGE of His Son"** - CONFORM means to be similar or identical; to be MADE INTO THE SAME SHAPE or CHARACTER. **God wants to make us as much LIKE JESUS as possible.**

- **II Corinthians 3:18** "For we \_\_\_\_\_, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, are being \_\_\_\_\_ into the same \_\_\_\_\_ from glory to glory, just as by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord."
- **Romans 12:2** "And do \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ to this world, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove (show) what is that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will of God (TO BE LIKE JESUS.)"
- **II Peter 1:3-4** "As His divine \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ all things that pertain to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_"

