

# Crucified with Christ

## Lesson Five: Children of Promise

### Galatians 4:8-20

1. According to Galatians 4:8-9, what state were the Galatians in before they encountered God? Now that they know God, what are they wanting to do? Why is this strange? Can this be a problem for us? How?
2. What Galatian practice does Paul note in Galatians 4:10? According to Galatians 4:11, what does this make him fear? Why would this be true?
3. In Galatians 4:12-14, what does Paul ask of the Galatians? How does he describe their relationship to him? Did they have the chance to wrong him? When? What did they do instead? Why is this important?
4. What does Paul ask the Galatians in Galatians 4:15? How did this special sense manifest itself? Can we encounter a similar problem as Christians today?
5. What other question does Paul ask in Galatians 4:16? What answer is implied? What should we take from this?

### That Sense of Blessing

*In Galatians 4:15, Paul poignantly asks the Galatians what happened to the sense of blessing that they knew when first they became Christians. During that time, they eagerly helped Paul and eagerly received his message. However, as time passed, the Galatians fell under the sway of false teachers and lost touch with the joy of the gospel.*

*Although we may never be led away from Christ through the wiles of a Judaizing teacher, just like the Galatians did, we can lose touch with our sense of blessing. All of us can remember the way that blessing initially felt: the relief of having our sins washed away, the joy of having committed our lives to Christ, and the determination that henceforward, our lives were going to be different.*

*As all of us can testify, however, as time passes, the joy of that moment becomes muted. We realize that Christianity is about more than the easy process of fulfilling God's plan of salvation. We realize that we are committed to Christ for the rest of our lives, whether we particularly feel like serving Him on any particular day or not. We learn that the race to heaven is a marathon, not a sprint. Once that initial burst of fervor fades, it can be all too easy to let our sense of blessing die out altogether, taking our fruitfulness or even our faith with it.*

*If we wish to avoid this fall from faith, we need to learn how to keep our joy, not by maintaining the enthusiasm of the new convert, but by allowing that joy to mature and deepen as we follow haltingly in the footsteps of Christ. Sometimes, this maturing process is a painful one. Not all Christian joys come easily. Nonetheless, we need to persevere in joy, to know that sometimes the hardest triumphs are the sweetest.*



6. In Galatians 4:17, what description does Paul give of the Judaizing teachers? What was their motive? What contrasting statement does Paul make in Galatians 4:18? What should all of this teach us?

7. How does Paul describe the Galatians in Galatians 4:19? What is his state because of them? According to Galatians 4:20, what does Paul want? Why? What does his example teach us about concern for brethren?

### Galatians 4:21-31

1. What rhetorical question does Paul ask in Galatians 4:21? Why is this question relevant here?
2. What two people are described in Galatians 4:22-23? Where do they appear in Scripture? According to this text, how are they alike? How are they different?
3. What does Paul reveal about the mothers of these two sons in Galatians 4:24? According to Galatians 4:24-25, who is the first mother? What are her children?
4. In Galatians 4:26-27, whom does Paul say the second mother is? What are her children like? How does Paul support this statement? How does the verse he cites provide support?
5. According to Galatians 4:28, what are Christians like? How is this true? According to Galatians 4:29, what was the relationship between the original child of flesh and child of promise? When did this occur? Why does Paul think this is significant?
6. What Scripture does Paul cite in Galatians 4:30? Why is this passage relevant? What does it reveal about God's attitude?
7. What conclusion does Paul reach in Galatians 4:31? What are the implications of this conclusion?