



**2016: Week 22**

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

“Why Turn Back?”

**Galatians 4:7,9**

“<sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God... <sup>9</sup>But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?” (NASB).

---

On Sunday John continued Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Throughout this letter Paul repeatedly challenges Galatian believers towards maturity in their faith. Unfortunately, even amidst good intentions, the Galatian believers were regressing in their Christian maturity. In their zeal to obey God, they began drifting back towards a Moses-mixed flavor of Christianity, a Christianity that *required* one to keep the Sabbath, to be circumcised, and to strictly abide by all things written in the Law.

**1. READ Galatians 4:4–18**

- How was Jesus “born under the Law” (v.4), and how did Jesus “redeem those who were under the Law” (v.5)?
  
- Scripture says that when a person trusts in God’s plan of salvation through Christ, he or she is adopted into God’s family. That person is then considered one of God’s own children and immediately brought into an intimate relationship with God Almighty. Have you ever thought about God as being *your* loving Father? How might thinking about Him in such a way change your outlook on life?

2. In his sermon on Sunday John provided a great illustration of perspective changing with maturity by explaining the difference between his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. On his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, John was given a 10-speed Schwinn Continental bicycle, a bicycle that became his pride and joy. On his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, John hardly cared at all about his Schwinn Continental. How could that be? Well, John wanted to go to the local DMV and get his driver’s license, so that he could begin driving a car. Driving a bicycle was fun, but driving an automobile was an entirely different story. Once he received his driver’s license, he had little interest in riding the bicycle. Keeping this illustration in mind, why would Galatian believers want to go back *under the Law* when they have been provided the incredible riches of God’s grace *in the Gospel*?

3. This situation among the Galatian churches (as revealed in Galatians 4) serves as a warning for us today, and it should prompt the following questions:

- Are we zealous to obey God?
  
- In our desire to obey Him, what teachings might we start believing, and what practices might we start embracing that could subtly add to the Gospel and taint its truth?
  
- How can we guard ourselves from falling into this trap?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Thank God– the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit– for such a gracious plan of salvation. The Father sent. Jesus went. The Spirit enlightens. Trust God and His Word which tells us everything we need to know about following Him. Ask the Lord to guide you and to protect you from falling into error.