



RETURN TICKET –Living the Gospel Galatians 4:8-20

Galatians is an amazing letter. Paul has a simple message, but it is one that continues to speak to us today and will continue speaking to believers for all time. As we study Paul’s words to the Galatians, ask the Father to help you understand how He would have you adjust your life to be in sync with the life He would have you live. Ask the the Father to guide you into the life that would honor Him and bring others closer to Him. Thank God for initiating relationship with us and for continuing to be involved in our lives. Thank Him for being our God and for sending His Son to die on the cross.

Getting Started

R.N. Longenecker wrote an excellent commentary on Paul’s letter to the Galatians. In addition to his insightful comments on Paul’s letter, Longenecker offered many insightful comments on the Christian life. Read and discuss your response to the following comment.

Whatever leads one away from sole reliance on Christ, whether based on good intentions of depraved desires, is sub-Christians, and therefore to be condemned.

What leads *you* from sole reliance on Christ?

What good things distract you from Christ’s best?

Condemned is a strong word. What do you need to condemn in your life as inferior to Christ’s best for you life?

As always, it is important to make sure we know what Paul is saying in the broader context of his letter. Review what he has said so far in the preceding chapters. Be prepared to explain how this week’s passage fits into his bigger argument.

We can be tempted to return to the old way of life? 4:8-11

Why would someone ever want to go back?

What are your old ways? How are you tempted?

Why do we desire lists of dos and don’ts?

What are you currently struggling with?

How do you fall back into old ways? Be specific.

Why does this seem easier than following Christ?

How can you fight this temptation?

Read verses 12 through 20 aloud from different translations.

We can guard against temptation as we . . . 4:12-20

Regularly compare the old life and the new life. v. 12

Honestly consider what caused the change in desire. vv. 13-15

Carefully clarify where your desires lie. vv. 16-18

Decisively commit to the vision of seeing Christ formed in you. vv. 19-20

Describe your life before Christ. Describe your life now.

When do you find yourself regressing to your old life?

How do you protect yourself from falling back into old ways?

Why did you leave your old life?

Do you know what human desires tend to lead you astray?

What do you want most out of life?

How clear is your understanding of the life Christ would have you live? What must you do to live this life?

How are they similar and dissimilar?

When are you most secure in your new life?

What are your greatest temptations?

What did you hope to find in Christ?

How can you protect yourself from these them?

What must you do to achieve this? Be specific.

Application

This is our time to pause and give the Spirit time to work in our hearts and guide us in the paths He would have us follow. We all have specific issues we need to work on, and God directs us specifically and deliberately. Let’s consider His words to us.

Why are you tempted to return to a life of living by rules?

What will you do this week to cultivate a heart that doesn’t want to go back?

How strong is the desire to have control of your life?

What are you happiest about having left behind?

How does this desire compete with Christianity?

How can you remind yourself re your new life?

Prayer

Praise Him for being God and for His myriad attributes (mercy, holiness, etc.). Praise Him for the many blessings He has poured upon us. *Praise* Him for His grace and love; for your salvation. *Praise* Him for the daily things you can often take for granted. *Pray* that God’s will shall be realized in all directions. *Pray* for TCBC’s leadership, that we will remain focused.