

## “Galatians # 4”

Gal. 2: 17-21; 3: 1-14

Review: 2:16... “We ended with this verse...”

Chuck Colson / *Loving God* (1983) Chapter 13, Be Holy Because I am Holy.

Talking about Mother Teresa: “A brother in the order came to her complaining about a superior whose rules, he felt, were interfering with his ministry. “My vocation is to work for lepers.” He told Mother Theresa. “I want to spend myself for the lepers”

She stared at him a moment, then smiled. “Brother,” She said gently, “your vocation is not to work for lepers, your vocation is to belong to Jesus.” (Abide...)

- Holiness is the complete surrender of self in obedience to the will and service of God.
  - Mother Teresa’s definition may sound rather nebulous to many Christians who have from childhood associated holiness with a long string of dos and don’ts.
  - But seeing holiness only as rule-keeping breeds serious problems.
1. “It limits the scope of true biblical holiness, which must affect every aspect of our lives”
  2. “Even though the rules may be biblically based, we often end up obeying the rules rather than God; concern for the letter of the law can cause us to lose its spirit”
  3. “Emphasis on rule keeping deludes us into thinking we can be holy through our efforts. But there can be no holiness apart from the work of the Holy Spirit – in quickening us through conviction of sin and bringing us by grace to Christ and sanctifying us – For it is grace that causes us to even want to be holy.”
  4. “Finally, our pious efforts can become ego-gratifying... self-centered spirituality in turn leads to self-righteousness – the very opposite of true holiness”

➤ Gal. 2: 17-21...

V's 17-19 "Hard to understand in KJV & NKJV" (For me anyway)

**Phillips:** *"Now if, as we seek the real truth about justification, we find we are sinners as the Gentiles, does that mean that Christ makes us sinners? Of course not! But if I attempt to build again the whole structure of justification by the law then I do, in earnest, make myself a sinner. For under the law I died, and now I am dead to the laws demands so that I may live for God."*

V's 20-21...

➤ Gal. 3:1-9

**Oh, foolish Galatians:** Is an expression of surprise mingled with indignation.

**Foolish:** "Anoetos"... *"It denotes the stupidity that arises from deadness and impotence of intellect. It means lacking in the power of perception, unwise. The word speaks of failure to use one's powers of perception"*

**Bewitched:** "Baskaino"... *"Metaphor derived from the popular superstition of an evil eye... The word denoted the effect of some mysterious power of evil"*

**Clearly Portrayed:** "Prographo"... *"It is the usual word speaking of the act of posting up public announcements or notices"* (Some have suggested that this is evidence of a crucifix being used by the early believers... I personally don't believe that interpretation)

**Expanded Greek Translation:** *"O, unreflecting Galatians, who bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was placarded publicly as the crucified one"*

The posting of a public announcement declaring Christ crucified, was Paul's preaching among the Galatians. (Not paintings or images on placards as some suggest)

**V's 2-4...** *"We do not begin in the Spirit and finish in the flesh"...*

*"Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith" (He doesn't author our faith and we finish it) (Hebrews 12: 2)*

*"He who begun a good work in you will... Complete it" (Phil. 1: 6)*

**V 5...** *"By the hearing of faith..."*

**V's 6-9...** V8 *"The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, in you all the nations shall be blessed"*

*The gospel of grace by faith was not an afterthought... This was always God's plan.*

➤ **Gal. 3:10-14**

**V 10 ESV and NIV:** *"For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse"*

This is a quote from Duet. 27:26 *"Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them. And all the people shall say, Amen"*

**V's 11-14...**

**Romans 10:1-4...**