

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021**

**Bible Study Series: Living by Faith – Galatians**

**Lesson 20. The Elementary Principles of the World – Gal. 4:1-3**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

- I. Sons and Slaves – vs. 1-2
  - A. Owner but Obedient
    - 1. Heir, but not in control yet
    - 2. Pedagogue - guarded, taught, directed, disciplined
  - B. Until the Date Set
    - 1. Boy to Man – no adolescence - Age 12, 13, or 18
    - 2. Rights, Responsibility, and Citizenship
- II. Enslaved – vs. 3 - Children – before belief and conversion
  - A. Bound in the Elementary Principles of the World – Col. 2:8, 18-23 - Deceptive human traditions equated with morality
  - B. Philosophy & Traditions – vs. 8
    - a. Cheated – robbed, taken captive – 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Cor. 10:5
      - i. Philosophy – love of wisdom, secret knowledge, Mosaic Law and Jewish Regulation
      - ii. Empty Deceit – worthless lies
    - b. Tricked by Tradition – Gal. 4:3
      - i. According to the Basic Principles of the World – 1 John 2:15-17; Heb. 5:12; Matt. 5:13
      - ii. Not According to Christ – 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6
  - C. Mysticism – vs. 18-19
    - a. Don't Be Cheated – to be robbed of the prize
    - b. Uninformed Worship
      - i. False Humility – being proud of how humble one is – 1 Pet. 5:5-6; Mt. 18:1-5
      - ii. Worship of Angels – Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9; Heb. 1:1-4, 14
      - iii. Intruding into the Unseen – going into detail about the unknown – Jn. 3:10; Jude 1:10
      - iv. Vain Conceit – the puffed up fleshly mind – 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Rom. 8:5-7
    - c. Neglecting Nourishment – Eph. 4:11-16
  - D. Asceticism – vs. 20-23
    - a. Don't Be Subjected to Man Made Rules
    - b. Dead and Buried – Rom. 6:3; 8:4
    - c. Basic Principles
      - i. Elemental: man-made rules; the doctrine of demons – Mark 7:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:1-5
      - ii. Principalities and powers have been defeated (see vs. 14-15)
      - iii. Don't, Don't, Don't – childish restraint – outward prohibitions do not enhance the inner man – Matt. 7:18-19; 1 Tim. 4:7-8
    - d. Appearing Wise, but Not – 2 Tim. 3:1-5
      - i. Self-imposed Rules – feeding the flesh by denying it
      - ii. False Humility/Modesty – “look how modest I am”
      - iii. Neglect of the Body – Matt. 6:16-18
    - e. Attempting to Earn God's Favor while Denying Grace – Gal. 5:1-6

Colossians 2:8

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:18-23

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

1 Timothy 6:20

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

2 Corinthians 10:5

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Galatians 4:3

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Hebrews 5:12

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Matthew 5:13

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

1 Corinthians 11:2

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

1 Peter 5:5-6

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Matthew 18:1-5

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Matthew 4:10

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Revelation 19:10

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 22:8-9

8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He

made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Hebrews 1:14

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

John 3:10

10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?

Jude 10

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

Romans 8:5-7

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Romans 6:3

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Romans 8:4

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Mark 7:6-7

6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

1 Timothy 4:1-5

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Matthew 7:18-19

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

7 But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Matthew 6:16-18

16 “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Galatians 5:1-6

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.