

“Become Like Me!”

Galatians 4:8-12a

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

May 5, 2019

Introduction

- How is it possible for someone to desert the faith which they once held?
- The Galatians’ spiritual desertion
 - Paul’s astonishment over their soon departure
 - The influence of the Judaizers
 - Their attack on Paul—the man and his message
 - Paul’s personal defense—the timeline of his life
- Paul’s theological defense of salvation by grace through faith.
 - Spiritual blessings of Abraham come through faith, not law keeping
 - The law condemns rather than justifies.
 - The law does not supersede or replace the promise made to Abraham.
 - The law had purpose in God’s plan
 - Defines sin
 - Condemns rather than justifies
 - A “tutor” to bring us to Christ
 - The law was never intended to be permanent, but a temporary measure until Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus instituted the “new” covenant relationship through His death
 - Summary statement—Galatians 4:4-7

“Become Like Me!”

A. Paul’s Concerns—Galatians 4:8-20

1. Personal Concern—Galatians 4:11 *“Labored in vain”*
2. Three-fold Concerns for the churches of Galatia—Galatians 4:8-20
 - a. Their spiritual desertion—4:8-12a
 - b. The breakdown in the relationship between Paul and the Galatians—Galatians 4:12b-16
 - c. Their misguided and misplaced zeal—Galatians 4:17-20
3. Paul’s Concern over their spiritual desertion—Galatians 4:8-12a
 - a. The Galatians’ salvation experience—Galatians 4:8-9a
 - 1) Before conversion, they were enslaved to false gods
 - a) Idols are not real ‘gods’ but are empowered by demons
 - b) They formerly worshiped the Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes—Acts 4:11-15
 - c) Enslaved to false gods because they did not know the living God—Romans 1:21-23
 - 2) Their conversion experience—Galatians 4:9a
 - a) Human viewpoint: They came to “know” God
 - b) Divine viewpoint: God “knew” them.
 - b. The Galatians’ defection—Galatians 4:9b-10
 - 1) Enslavement to the Jewish religious observances.
 - 2) Is Paul equating Judaism with heathenism?

B. Paul’s Appeal—Galatians 4:12a *“Become like me, for I became like you!”*

1. *“Become like me!”*—Paul, the strict legalist, gives it all up to follow Christ
2. *“For I became like you!”*—Paul models freedom in Christ.