

SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, January 9, 2023

Scripture: Galatians 4:17-20

TITLE: Know the Truth and Pursue It

Recently my son approached my wife and told her how pretty she was looking; How good her hair looked; How perfect her makeup was. He was laying it on heavy. Well, my wife thought something was up, but she downplayed it. She just said, “Thank you so much for noticing. I’m glad you like it.” Then there was an uncomfortable silence and then he asked her, “Hey mom, can I have some money to go by some candy at the store?”

Haha. Busted. The truth was out. He was buttering her up just to get something out of her.

For the record, I know my wife and I have no doubt she looked incredibly beautiful that day, and her hair was on point. But you see, my son was zealous for the wrong reasons. If we’re not careful we can get buttered up as well, only to give in to the wrong thing.

The Apostle Paul experienced this in Galatians 4:17-20 (ESV):

They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Paul calls these people my little children. This is a term of endearment. It’s like a mother or a father looking at his little child with affection and also deep concern. What was Paul’s concern? That legalists, or people who said you had to earn your way to God, would butter them up to abandon the true Gospel. Paul says he’s in anguish, because these people do not come to them with sincere motives. Paul however always came to them with sincere motives and passion for the truth.

You and I today are so easily swayed. We get buttered up by zealous advertisements and passionate influence. We begin to leave the truth of God behind. For the Galatian churches, it was adding to the Gospel of grace. For you, it may not be adding works to the grace of God. You might be struggling with taking away from the power of the Gospel. You might have friends who are telling you to not be judgmental and to go with the flow. You might have family members today who are saying don’t be so rigid and so close minded, but instead consider more than just what the Bible says.

We all need to be zealous, but zealous for the *truth* of God. Look at your life today. Ask yourself: where am I being influenced to move away from the truth? It’s my prayer that you will know the truth and pursue it. Because it is there that our true freedom is found.