

**FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS**  
**February 4, 2010**  
**The Liberating Gospel – Galatians 4:8-20**

- 4:8-11**    **I. Remember the bondage of unbelief.**  
              *“Formerly, when you did not know God...”*
- :8**            A. You were enslaved.  
              *“...you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.”*  
              cf. John 8:31-38; Rom. 6:14-23
- :9a**            B. You were liberated.  
              *“But now that you know God – or rather are known by God...”*  
              cf. Jer. 9:23, 24; John 17:3; Eph. 1:17
- :9b-11**        C. Returning is unthinkable.  
              *“...how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I wasted my efforts on you.”*  
              cf. Exodus 14:10-12; 16:3; Numbers 11:4-5; II Peter 2:17-22
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- :12-16**        **II. Remember your love for your teachers.**  
              *“I plead with you, brothers...”*
- :12a**            A. You imitated them.  
              *“...become like me, for I became like you.”*
- :12b-14a**      B. You indulged them.  
              *“You have done me no wrong. As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn.”*
- :14b**            C. You revered them.  
              *“Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.”*
- :15a**            D. You enjoyed them.  
              *“What has happened to all your joy?”*
- :15b, 16**        E. You loved them.  
              *“I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.”*
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- :17-20**        **III. Remember their love for you.**
- :17**            A. They were not zealous for themselves.  
              *“Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.”*
- :18, 19a**        B. They were zealous for your good.  
              *“It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. My dear children...”*
- :19b, 20**        C. They were zealous for Christ.  
              *“...for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!”*