Until Christ Is Formed in You (Galatians 4:19)

Tony Mauck · Galatians 4:16–20

INTRODUCTION

- There is an inescapable conclusion to our lives that we need to keep ever before our minds.
- Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- If you focus on Christ's image, that heaven's glory, the ultimate prize, will be the natural result of that pursuit.

1 Do Not Use Galatians 4:16 as a Badge

Galatians 4:16

- We should not use Galatians 4 and verse 16 as some kind of badge whereby we can upset people because they are uncomfortable with the message that we're teaching.
- Telling the truth is not the end of the proclamation of this message. There must also be a very real compassion for souls and an honesty about the people that we're talking about.
- I should not exalt myself as superior, as elite or better than them. Because I'm not. I'm merely forgiven.
- Having said that, we have to be firm and unyielding in the proclamation of truth.

2 Purveying Truth Often Pricks Consciences

Galatians 5:4; Galatians 4:17; 1 John 4:1

- That sometimes people are provoked by the message.
- He says in Galatians chapter 5 and verse 4, you have been severed from Christ.
- Number one, the ill motives of the deceivers. They eagerly seek you not commendably. Men do not always have noble motives.
- We test the spirits to see whether they are of God according to 1 John chapter 4. Because even Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.

3 Paul Is Perplexed, but the Goal Never Changes

Galatians 4:20; Matthew 23:23

- Sometimes we are puzzled by the behavior of people that we expect different things from and better things from.
- Whether it is embraced favorably or unfavorably, the goal never changes.
- These things you ought to have done without leaving the weightier matters undone. This is the weightier matter right here.

- Sometimes in all the little details of working out our salvation, we forget the big picture.

4 All People Are Worthy Objects of Our Love

- If Christ is going to be formed in me, then I need to think about everyone the way Jesus thought about everyone.
- He didn't look at them with contempt. He wanted their salvation.
- How do you treat others? How do you treat people you just don't like very much?

5 Purpose and Enjoyment in the Father's Will

John 4:34; John 15:11

- My food is to do the will of him who sent me, John chapter 4 and verse 34.
- He not only had as his purpose, his overriding purpose, the Father's will, but there was even some enjoyment in the pursuit and execution.
- Even in his darkest hours, as the cross looms, he says to his disciples in John 15 that my joy might be in you.

6 Patience for Ultimate Gratification

Galatians 4:19

- I'll give you all the kingdoms of the world. Devil, right here, right now. Pretty tantalizing offer. Jesus rejected that.
- His patience paid off in providing redemption for everyone who would embrace it.
- Jesus teaches us about waiting for the greatest prize of all.
- This isn't play. This is serious business. It's labor. But it's a worthwhile labor.

THE CHALLENGE

Let your fervor and intensity and labor and work and diligence be directed toward ultimate goals. Paul says, I press toward the mark. May your eyes, may your heart be focused on those things.

MY NOTES