

Guarding the Gospel of Grace

Preserving Liberty in Christ



John 10:3-5



The Book of Galatians

1-2 The Gospel of Grace **Defended**

➔ 3-4 The Gospel of Grace **Explained**

5-6 The Gospel of Grace **Applied**



Galatians 4:1-11



Galatians 4:8-11

A. Turning Back to False Gods 8-9a

B. Turning Back to False Religion 9b-11



Galatians 4:8-11

A. Turning Back to False Gods:

⁸ Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. ⁹ But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, ...

B. Turning Back to False Religion:

... how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰ Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. ¹¹ I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

A. Turning Back to False Gods

- **The Old Life:** serving **false gods**
 - Didn't know **God**
 - Served what were really not **gods** at all
- **The New Life:** serving **the True God**
 - **You** have gotten to know **God**
 - Actually: **God** has gotten to know **you**

**“We confess that we are atheists,
as far as gods of this sort are concerned,
but not with respect to the most true God,
the Father of righteousness.”**

- Justin Martyr

Galatians 4:8-11

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“Turning Back”

Used of Spiritual Conversion

1 Thes 1:9; Acts 9:35; 15:19

Used of Spiritual Apostasy

2 Pet 2:21–22

B. Turning Back to False Religion

- **Weak and beggarly elements**

Dropping out of the School of Grace and re-enrolling in the Kindergarten of Law



B. Turning Back to False Religion

- **Weak and beggarly elements**
- **Turn again to bondage**

Religious Bondage

Tony Jones advocates sixteen "ancient-future" spiritual tools or disciplines such as "The Jesus Prayer, Lectio Divina, Silence and Solitude, Stations of the Cross, Centering Prayer, The Ignatian Examen, and the Labyrinth".

Religious Bondage

"Following some experience with the ancient practices outlined in this book, you may decide to incorporate some of them into your personal Rule of Life. An example of a rule could look something like this: Pray through two centuries of the Jesus Prayer in the morning and evening every day. Keep the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday every week. Walk a labyrinth once a month. Take a two-day silent retreat once a year. Fast and walk the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Take a 28-day Ignatian retreat every decade...."

Religious Bondage

“I grew up thinking that we figured out the Bible—
that we knew what it means.

Now I have no idea what most of it means,
and yet I feel like life is big again!

Like life used to be black and white, and now it's in color.”

Kristen Bell

Religious Bondage

“People today are starved, not for doctrines, but for images and relationships and stories.”

Leonard Sweet

B. Turning Back to False Religion

- **Weak and beggarly elements**
- **Turn again to bondage**
- **Observe **days** and **months** and **times** and **years****

The Weak and Beggarly Elements

- **Days:** weekly Sabbath and other one-day Feasts
- **Months:** New Moon rituals
- **Times:** Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
- **Years:** Jubilee, New Year, Sabbatical Years

B. Turning Back to False Religion

- Paul is **concerned** for **them**
 - They are **leaving** the **gospel of grace**
- Paul is **concerned** about **labor in vain**
 - They are **wasting** the **gospel of grace**

How does all of this **work out**?

- **Be faithful to the simple gospel**
 - **Jesus died to pay your penalty**
 - **Jesus died to justify you**
 - **Jesus rose to give you life**
 - **Jesus rose to empower you**

Hymn #127

“Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

that ev
an tri-tin
ow His liv

weet-est that ev-er was heard,

rus, Sang as they welcomed His birth,
bor, Tell of the sor-row He bore,
er, Clear-er than ev-er I see;

D. C. for Chorus

to earth,
not.

the like

else could