

Sermon Notes:

6/3/2007



**Christ Community Church**

**Faith Journey Sunday**

Galatians 4:8-9

“The Slavery of Turning Back”

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007

Pastor Jim Folk

**Galatians 4:8-9 ESV**

*“Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, **how can you turn back again** to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?”*

<b>Poisonous Slavery</b>	<b>Antidote that brings Freedom</b>
<b>Idolatry:</b> Attributing “god-like” qualities to earthly/worldly things.  In My Life...	
<b>Self-Reliance:</b> Forgetting God’s initiative in our relationship with him.  In My Life and in Others...	
<b>Slothfulness:</b> Preferring the comfort of immaturity.  In My Life...	

**Discussion Starter:**

Have you ever known someone who loved to live in the past? Maybe he or she kept re-living the “glory days”. Perhaps it was someone who could not move past a tragedy in their life. What do you observe as the differences between people who cannot “move on” with their lives and those who choose to move forward?

**Dig Deeper:**

1. Read 1 John 2:12-17. Note especially verses 15-17. What are some of the desires that we all struggle with in this life that will be rendered obsolete in heaven? (For example, career goals & recognition, financial wealth, personal health & beauty, romantic love and intimacy, etc.) How does one go about discerning whether a desire you have is a “worldly” desire or a desire that is in line with the Father’s will?

2. John 6:35-53 is a passage which contains several references to God drawing people to him in salvation. (v. 37-39, v. 44). Is this idea a comfort to you? Do you find yourself wondering if God continues to lead you and mature you throughout your life? Meditate and Discuss Philippians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:11-13.

3. Proverbs 12:24 gives the contrast between the diligent person and the lazy person. This principle is also true in the spiritual realm. In what ways might people--through laziness--be kept in slavery to immaturity or sin? Why is changing our habits always more difficult than staying the same? Do you see diligence in following Christ as a burden or a blessing? What is one area of your personal life where you need to grow in maturity?

**Application/Prayer:**

Take a few moments to review your spiritual journey this past six months. How have you seen God provide for your needs? How has God shown his grace? Give thanks in prayer with others for God’s continued provision. What is God doing in this area that you are excited about? How might you seek to be involved with God’s kingdom work?

<b>Monday June 4</b>	This week we will renew our study of Galatians. Read Galatians 4:8-20. Note verse 16. Paul knew that he faced opposition. When have you been faced with a situation where telling the truth might make you someone’s enemy?
<b>Tuesday June 5</b>	Today Read 2 Peter 1:1-15. Notice the picture of maturity Peter gives in verses 5-8. Which of those qualities do you seek the most? Notice the picture of immaturity is being nearsighted and blind. What concerns of this world prevent you from seeing the big picture?
<b>Wednesday June 6</b>	Today’s reading is 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. Here Paul explains his methods for witnessing (sharing the gospel). This passage echoes Paul’s thought in Galatians 4:12. How might you identify with someone else in order to share the gospel?
<b>Thursday June 7</b>	Today Read a psalm of thanksgiving recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:7-36. What are the circumstances that steal your joy? What blessings (no matter how small) can you give thanks to God for today? Take time to write down one or two of them.
<b>Friday June 8</b>	Paul shares in Galatians 4:19 that he is in the “pains of childbirth” for the Galatians to grow in Christ. Another moving moment in Paul’s life was his farewell to the Ephesians elders in Acts 20:17-38. Read this passage and think about the urgency of the gospel being carried on.
<b>Sat.-Sun. June 9-10</b>	Galatians 5:1-15 gives a glimpse of the freedom God the Father longs for us to have in following Christ. How is freedom exercised appropriately?