

Who is Your Enemy?

Galatians 4:12-20

¹² Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Paul's Plea v.12
2. Paul's Persecution v.12b-15
3. Paul's Perplexity v.16-18
4. Paul's Pain v.19-20

Questions for Reflection and Application

What has particularly struck you about the nature and conduct of true gospel ministry?

Do you ever find it appealing to have people relying on you in some way? Why? Could you be motivated by the same goals as the false teachers?

We can all be gospel ministers to fellow Christians. How will your ministry change, based on this Bible section?