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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

**Personal Bible Study-100**  
**Galatians 4:18-19 – Zeal and Christlikeness**

**Galatians 4:18** But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you (καλὸν δὲ ζηλοῦσθαι ἐν καλῷ πάντοτε καὶ μὴ μόνον ἐν τῷ παρῆναι με πρὸς ὑμᾶς = *but it is good to be zealous in good always and not only when I am present face to face with you*)

1. After speaking about the legalists who had a zeal for the Galatians out of false motivations in the previous verse, Paul notes that zeal is good if it is for true good, like grace, truth and God.
2. Paul also had zeal, but it was for the right motives. His zeal was for the Lord and Truth, not for the flattery of others (Philip. 1:15-18), like the Judaizers who had infiltrated the Galatian church.
3. The last part of this verse, “and not only when I am present face to face with you,” points to the fact that these Galatians had a zeal for the truth of grace and faith when they were with Paul. But when he left they became vulnerable to the Galatians. Paul was not upset that others were teaching the Galatians, he was upset because these others were teaching false doctrines of legalism.
4. We live in an age of Demas when many believers have far more zeal for the world (TV, comfort, Facebook, fame, wealth) than the Lord and His Word. As I mentioned in Bible class last evening, each believer will end up, at least practically, forsaking the Lord because of love for the world [as a greater good], or forsake the world because of love for Christ as the Greatest Good. Read Matthew 6:24; Gal. 1:10; Rom. 6:16; 8:7; 12:1-2; Col. 3:1-4; Philip. 3:18-19; Titus 2:11-15; Heb. 5:11-14; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16; Rev. 3:15-22.

**Galatians 4:19** My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you (τέκνα μου, οὗς πάλιν ὠδίνω μέχρις οὗ μορφωθῆ Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν = *my children, for whom again I labor until Christ is formed in you*).

1. Paul appeals to the Galatians by depicting himself as a mother who gave birth to them. Just as a mother goes through birth pangs, he went through birth pangs in his ministry of nourishing them on grace. But he takes the metaphor a step further with “again.” How many mothers go through birth pangs twice for the same child?

2. “Formed” in this metaphor is a picture of an unborn child taking shape in its mother’s womb. Just as the unborn child’s life is being formed from the inside, so grace in the inner life of the believer shapes him.
3. All that God is doing in our lives is to conform us to the image of Christ. Read Romans 8:28-29. God’s most effective “workings” are always through our difficulties, read Rom. 8:31-39.
4. On some of the mechanics of being conformed to the image of Christ, read John 7:39; 16:14; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19, 20; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:17-18.
5. What I would like for you to do is to reflect on what it *really* means to be Christ-like. Check the line which you think applies and list a passage if you can.
  - Being Christ-like means always being nice to everyone
  - Being Christ-like means complete devotion to God
  - Being Christ-like means not offending people
  - Being Christ-like means never speaking about the evils of society
  - Being Christ-like means accepting the world’s norms and standards
  - Being Christ-like means accepting liberal views of the Bible
  - Being Christ-like means loving Christ more than your own family
  - Being Christ-like means having a passion for obedience to God
  - Being Christ-like means being a pacifist
  - Being Christ-like means total commitment to the plan of God regardless of discomfort
  - Being Christ-like means encouraging everyone in whatever they are doing
  - Being Christ-like means being very sweet and smiley
  - Being Christ-like means going to the Scriptures *primarily* for self
  - Being Christ-like means going to the Scriptures *primarily* to learn about God
  - Being Christ-like means being very man-centered
  - Being Christ-like means being very God-centered
  - Being Christ-like means loving fellow believers
  - Being Christ-like means just doing your own thing
  - Being Christ-like means to always end up with a comfortable, healthy, prosperous life
  - Being Christ-like means not being too serious about Bible doctrine
6. Throughout the Word of God being Christ-like has more to do with attitude and commitment to God and the plan of God than demeanor towards others (True or False)
7. Complete devotion to God is
  - a.  the highest spiritual virtue
  - b.  not that important in our age of grace

In 'Ehyeh,  
Pastor Don