

September 30, 2018 – Galatians 4

TRUE FREEDOM

Remember the Hug?




previous lessons here
PreciousHeart.net/SS





Galatians

Sept 2	True Gospel	1	No Other under Heaven
Sept 9	True Grace	2	How Many Puny Pillars Did Pugnacious Paul Pillory?
Sept 16	True Life	3a	Righteous Live by Faith
Sept 23	True Heirs	3b	Faith Sets Free, Priority of the Promise
 Sept 30	True Freedom	4	Remember the Hug, Priority of the Hug
Oct 7	True Fruit	5	Flesh vs. Spirit, Love One Another Fast Flee the Fiery Flesh Fancy Not the Fickle Flesh
Oct 14	True Compassion	6	Saints with Scars, Treasures of Doing Good



Theme

**Believers must passionately proclaim
that TRUE FREEDOM is found only
through FAITH in Christ**



Galatians

Last
Week

4:1-7 *New Position – God's Child & Heir Thru Christ*

4:8-11 *The Problem – Know God ... Known by God*

4:12-14 *The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel*

4:15-20 *The Passion – “Would have torn out **EYES** for me”*



Key Verse – Galatians 4:14b

**Instead, you welcomed me
as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus himself.**

**Dearest words by any disciple
in the New Testament**



Alternative Title

Diary of a Hug



I Heart You!



I just HUGGED
you in my
thoughts...

I hope you felt
the squeeze!

Healing Hugs
Poster by Leann



I Heart You!






Alternative Title #2

Paul's Most Personal Moment

**Dearest ... Closest ... Loveliest
Yet a Sentiment without a STORY**



**Would that we
knew the
NARRATIVES
behind these
Sentiments**



Key Verse – Galatians 4:14b

**Instead, you welcomed me
as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus himself.**

**Dearest words by any disciple
in the New Testament**



Chap. 1 – Crystal Clear Curse –

Anyone espousing a different gospel

Let them be under God's CURSE

Chap. 2 – We saw Paul Pillory the Puny Pillars

Punish the Kingdom Cutters' Propaganda

Offer a Profoundly Precious Postulate:

Not justified by the LAW ... but ONLY by FAITH in Christ

Chap. 3a

- Fearsome Force of the Curse
- Finality of our Fortunate Forgiving
- Some Fools had Foiled their Faith



Chap. 3b

- Priority of the Promise
- Promise \Rightarrow Law \Rightarrow Faith & Heir
- Jewel of N.T. \Rightarrow All One in Christ



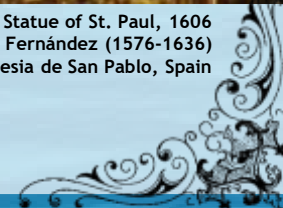
4:1-7:

Law is Teacher Guiding a Child

We no longer need a Teacher/Guardian



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4:1-7 – *Last Week* – Paul reinforced Slave Motif
Christ came born under the Law ...

Because of Christ ... ✝ **We NO Longer Slaves**
But Adopted as Children ... ✝ **Heirs with Christ**

HOW COULD they fall back ... *but they had*
HOW COULD they Love the Enslaving LAW
but they were

We see how this ***distressed*** Paul ...

We see how this caused Paul ... ***Great Pain***

We see Paul's Great Pain like **Never Before**



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4:8-11 The Problem – Know God ... Known by God

Of all the New Testament scriptures ...

If you believe the previous to be DEEP

Then believe that the following is as

Powerfully Personal

As any in Galatians is DEEP ...

Paul eases into this ... avoiding any kind of

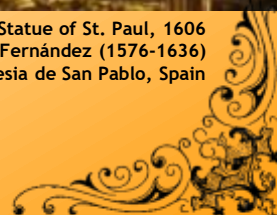
Pretense at a Pushing a Guilt Trip

Paul purposes to play as tender as a Puppy

Hopefully, you will see Paul's Precious Heart



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Big hugs,
Little hugs,
Snuggle hugs,
Loving hugs,
Healing hugs,
Comfort hugs.
Whatever kind of
hugs you need,
this should have
it covered,
especially for you!



Healing Hugs



4:8-11 The Problem – Know God ... Known by God
Paul truly **LOVES** them ... **FEARS** for them
HOW COULD they fall back ... *but they had*
Paul recounts their well-known history

⁸ Formerly, when you did not KNOW God,
you were slaves to those who
by NATURE are NOT gods.

Remember Acts 14 how religious they were in
Iconium, Lystra, Derby

Barnabas was Zeus ... Paul was Hermes
Then Paul was Beaten to near Death!



4:8-11 The Problem – Know God ... Known by God

Idols are no gods at all ... nothing real

⁹ But now that you know God—or

rather are known by God

—how is it that you are turning back to
those weak and miserable forces?

Do you wish to be enslaved by them

all over again?

Certainly rhetorical ... ***OF COURSE NOT!***

Paul begins to outline what he means by this



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4:8-11 The Problem – Know God ... Known by God

Idols perhaps ... certainly the Jewish Law too

**¹⁰ You are observing special days and
months and seasons and years!**

Jews had many Festivals and Special Days

**HOW?—don't know. But the Galatians were
gobbled up, consumed with these *LAWS***

Instead of with the Savior

**¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have
wasted my efforts on you.**



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Sometimes it's better
to put love into hugs
than to put it into words...

Sometimes ... all we need is a

Teddy Wolf

What is *Wolfy* going to do?

Sometimes ... not ALL HUGS are Welcome

Respecting SPACE is the first step of ALL



4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

Here SHINES Paul's LOVE ... their LOVE

**¹² I plead with you, brothers and sisters,
become like me, for I became like you.**

You did me no wrong.

**¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness
that I first preached the gospel to you,**

How much did Paul do ... ?

Under what duress did Paul endure ... ?

Strength of Paul's Heart



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4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

Then Paul shifts to **THEIR HEART**

¹⁴ even though my illness was a trial to you,
you didn't treat me with contempt or scorn.

His ILLNESS a “trial to you”???

You know what that means ... so well ...

How many “Fair Weather” Friends have YOU?

Is someone's “Illness” a burden to YOU?

Paul praises their MATURITY here ...

Paul praises their Christian Compassion



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4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

You MUST understand this verse!

**¹⁴ even though my illness was a trial to you,
you didn't treat me with contempt or scorn.**

You do know ... hate to say it ...

He says that BECAUSE he has experienced

Scorn for His Illness

Paul has seen CONTEMPT for his *blindness*

Paul has been SCORNEED for his *bad eyes*

Yes, even other CHURCHES scorned him for

Deformities OUT of his Control



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*Sometimes
all you need
is a hug from the
right person...*

*And all
your stress will
melt away!*



Facebook.com/Happysmilies



4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel
Then Paul *PRAISES* them for something else
Paul raises the bar ... raises the standard
What he says next ILLUMINATES like a

Spotlight Shining

Highest form of praise to ANY Church ...
Most elegant, exquisite, DARLING *Praise*

¹⁴ Instead, you welcomed me

as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus himself.



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4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

What church have you **EVER** seen do that to
ANYONE?

Not here ... not *a n y w h e r e*

But Paul felt the **CLOSEST**
Paul felt the Most Cherished in
Galatian Churches

¹⁴ Instead, you welcomed me
as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus
HIMSELF.



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Five Key Facts about Hugs

1. Hugging increases oxytocin in the body, hormone for social bonding, reducing stress and lowering blood pressure
2. Hugging stimulates the brain to release dopamine, the feel-good hormone
3. Hugging reveals levels of affection
4. Hugging can cure depression, loneliness, and increase security, trust, and self-esteem

Lastly ...

5. Hugs are **FREE**





4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

We know NOT why ... *NOT FULLY* ...

Why the negative to enlightens the positive

Why the cold, callous, catastrophic CLARIFY

the KIND and the COZY

WHY the caustic or even a killing can cause

Clarity in KINDNESS

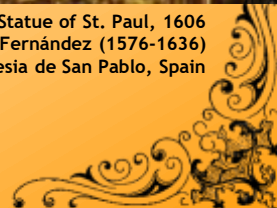
Perhaps it is because we live in so much

Darkness, Doom, and Dreary and Dire DAYS

We See & Fear so much Evil



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4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

Here ... Paul is Powerfully Positive ...

But I am sure you may Miss the Message

Meaning is made much more momentous in



The Negative

You know something of “Solicitous Care”

Before prison ... I was a Hospital Chaplain

Never forget the night a young 18-year-old

Shot Himself in the Head

With a .357 Magnum ... *they kept his body alive*



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If I had known
Things would turn out this way,
I might have
Stayed up a little later,
Talked a little longer,
And hugged you a little tighter.



4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

That is ... kept him on Life Support ...

Otherwise healthy ... was a good DONOR

Mother ... LOST IT ... could not talk for a while

She was a bit like a Zombie for HOURS

Tears ... Red Face ... Choking

She would not, COULD NOT decide anything

Her son ... her young son ... *half a head left*

You understand what it is to be TREATED as

Important as an Angel—her SON

He was HER Angel



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Sometimes
simplereminders.com
a hug is worth
more than a
thousand words.



4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel
Another time ... a Dear Father lay dying
Two Daughters & Son (20-30s) ... whimpered
Prayed – Whimpered – HOURS
Their FATHER ... HERO ... PROTECTOR
Their FATHER ... Provider ... Their **PaPAA**
Their Knight in Shining Armor ... Hero
Then ... **finally** ... he laid down his shield
He died ... then across the hospital you hear
Wailing – Screams – GOD!



4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel
Their **PaPAA** died ... they wailed an **HOUR**
That mother's son ... was her **ANGEL**
Those Daughters' & Son's father was
Their Angel

Paul pulls out a Powerful Piece of Passion
Paul Places his Heart in their bare Palm

¹⁴ Instead, you welcomed me

as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus himself.



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4:12-14 The Plea – Despite Physical Burden ... Angel

You KNOW ... over the time Paul spent

Many a camp fire chat ...

Paul stayed in many a family home ...

Some Died

Paul preached a funeral or two ...

They were **KNIT** to him ... Heart to HEART

you **WELCOMED** me

as if I were an Angel of God,
as if I were Christ Jesus himself.



4:15-20 The Passion – “Would have torn out eye for me”

He **WON** them now ... *they remembered*

Then Paul pulls their tender PALM to his *heart*

¹⁵ Where, then, is your blessing of me now?

I can testify that, if you could have done so,

you would have **TORN OUT YOUR EYES**
and **GIVEN THEM TO ME.**

One of the ladies there said, “Stop ... **STOP!**”

“Stop reading ... pass me a tissue!”

One of the Galatian men shook his head ...

Jabbed his friend, “**I TOLD you!**”



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4:15-20 **The Passion** – “Would have torn out eye for me”

They waited in suspense ... for **Sister Serious**

No one wanted to offend **Sister Serious** ...

She wiped her eyes, “Paul ... *oh PAUL!*”

She nodded ... reader of the scroll continued:

¹⁶ **Have I now become your enemy**

by telling you the TRUTH?

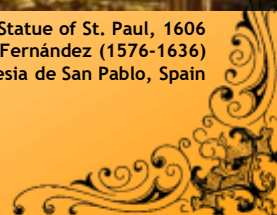
Big John & Sister Serious *shook their heads*

This letter's been **TOUGH** for the Galatians

They remembered **WELL** their **LOVE** for Paul



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No one ... not a single one of them ...



Forgot the parting tearful hug a year ago





4:15-20 The Passion – “Would have torn out eye for me”

“Go on ... finish,” another disciple urged.

Reader continued:

**¹⁷ Those people are zealous to win you over,
but for no good.**

**What they want is to alienate you from us,
so that you may have zeal for them.**

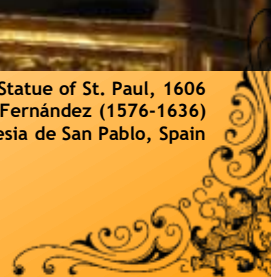
Big John cracked a knuckle in his hand

Sister Serious’ eyes began to bulge a bit

“No KIDDING,” quiped little Peter Piper



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4:15-20 The Passion – “Would have torn out eye for me”

“Get on with it,” grumbled Big John

the reader continued with a bit of bite

**¹⁸ It is fine to be zealous,
provided the purpose is good,
and to be so always,
not just when I am with you.**

**¹⁹ My dear children, for whom I am again
in the pains of childbirth
until Christ is formed in you,**

These fine words fell like the Balm of Gilead



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4:15-20 The Passion – “Would have torn out eye for me”

²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and
change my tone, because
I am perplexed about you!

Yet ... Paul cannot be with them

Paul wanted to have a ... *Video Chat!*

Much more than that ... Paul ... wanted to

Give them a Hug

Amazingly ... an appropriate HUG ... can

Can solve a lot of friction ... and cover a

Multitude of Messes



Now then ... what was YOUR

Most Personal Moment?

Has there ever been someone you treated as
an Angel ... as Christ?

Willing to Give YOUR EYES?

What **LOVE** in the Galatian Church?

Will it **EVER** come to

Our Church?

