

A Lad with No Name Part 2

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 02 February 2025

Preacher: Pastor Steve Hersey

[0 : 0 0] Galatians chapter 4, Galatians chapter 4. Over the last few weeks, we've talked about being a part of God's family.

We've talked about how we become children of God through Christ. We've talked about sometimes we tend to fade away and getting back to the blessed place of being in God's fellowship with Jesus through Jesus Christ.

Today, we're going to talk about staying on the right track, staying on the right track. Remember, in Galatians, the theme is there's no turning back. Paul is writing to them, you can't go backwards, you have to move forward with Jesus Christ.

And so this morning, Galatians chapter 4, beginning at verse 16. Notice what it says, Galatians 4, 16. Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

They zealously affect you, but not well. Yea, they would exclude you that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

[1 : 2 0] My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice, for I stand in doubt of you.

Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons. One was by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman.

But he that was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh. But he of the free woman was born by promise. Which things are an allegory?

For these are two covenants, the one from Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar, or in the Old Testament we knew it was Agar. For this Agar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem, which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

But Jerusalem, which is above, is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not.

[2 : 3 1] Break forth and cry, thou that travailest not. For the desolate hath many more children than she which hath a husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

But as then he was born after the flesh, persecuted him that was born after the spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless, what saith the scripture?

Cast out the bondwoman and her son. For the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Let's have a word of prayer, and we'll talk about what all that means. Dear Heavenly Father, we pray this morning that you would help us, Lord, as we go through his patches.

It seems a little difficult to understand in some ways. Help us to grasp what it's talking about. Lord, help us to grasp the idea that by your grace, not by anything we do, but by your grace, we are saved.

[3 : 37] We are saved and free from having to follow all those rules and regulations that they had at one time. We are free to follow Christ and what he has for us.

Lord, I pray that you would open our hearts, open our minds, help us to see what you have for us this morning. Lord, minister to our hearts that we might be drawn closer to you.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. So far, as we've been going through Galatians, Paul has been challenging the church there to get back to the fellowship with Jesus Christ that they had had at one time.

To get back to that, last week we called it that blessed place. Get back to that blessed love that they had had, that first love. Remember last week we talked about Revelation chapter 2.

And he was talking about the different churches there in the book of Revelation, the seven churches in the one Ephesus. He said, you've left your first love.

[4 : 41] You need to get back to that. And that's basically what he's saying here. You left the love for the Lord that I taught you, that I showed you. You had a love for him that was above everything.

But now you're going backwards. You need to get back to that love and you need to move forward in that love. But the problem was they had a problem of a fleshly influence.

Those first few verses there, 16 through 21, he talks about the influence of the Judaizers. The Judaizers, remember, were those who had come in and said, trusting in Christ is okay.

But you've got to do the things of Jewish tradition. You've got to do the things of Jewish ritual. You've got to follow these different things and follow them.

He says, you've got to keep going with what you know. Just add Christ to it. And how many times have we talked about that in here and even today? You can keep living your life the way it is.

[5 : 43] You can keep doing the things you've been doing. And you can keep living in the sin you've been living in. Just add Jesus to it. And it's not just adding Jesus. It's letting Jesus come in and take over.

It's giving your all to him. And so these Judaizers are trying to draw the Galatians back to those old things. They had been involved in paganism we talked about last week.

You know, the Jupiter and Diana and all that. Now they're trying to draw them back into at least legalism. You've got to do this, you've got to do this, you've got to do this. Paul's going, no, no, no, no, no.

And what is happening? Well, first of all, they're trying to misrepresent the Apostle Paul. These Judaizers and others are trying to malign him. They're saying things about him.

They're accusing him of different things. They're accusing him of teaching different things. They're just going after him. People still do that today. James 4.4, he says, Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

[6 : 47] Whosoever therefore shall be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. He says, look, forget the world.

Leave the world behind. Leave all those things behind. Follow Jesus. Keep your eye on Jesus. Then Paul's teaching them, look, I've always been faithful to the truth.

I've always taught you the truth. His purpose in preaching the gospel to them was so they would have the truth about salvation. And his truth that Paul taught was always consistent.

If you go back to any of these books written by Paul, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Thessalonians, Romans, Corinthians, any of those, Paul's message of the gospel is always the same.

It does not change. Jesus Christ died, buried, rose again, and you have salvation by believing what Jesus Christ did. That's his message to all of them.

[7 : 49] And Paul's reminding them to be faithful to the truth. Back in chapter 1, verse 10, Galatians, he says, For do I now persuade men or God?

Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. He says, my job is not to please people. My job is to tell them the truth about who Jesus Christ is.

That's my job. Proverbs 27, verse 6 says, Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

He said, I may be saying things that hurt you. I may be saying things that you don't like, but I'm telling you the truth. He said, that you should be thankful for, that I'm telling you the truth.

What were they trying to do, these Judaizers and others? They were trying to manipulate the new Christians, the manipulation of the new Christians. They were coming in and finding out people were coming, listening to what Paul had to say, listening to what was being said at the church there at Galatia.

[8 : 52] And they're coming in and trying to take those people out of there. They're trying to bring them to a different place. They're pursuing these new believers. I read a statistics once.

I don't know if it's true today. It may be an old statistic. But like 75% of Mormons were one-times Baptists. And usually what had happened is people would come to church.

They'd get excited about the things of God. They'd start wanting to learn more and more and more. And then these Mormon people would come alongside and say, oh, you want to learn more? Come to our Bible study. Let us teach you.

We'll help you to grow. We'll help you to learn things. But teach them the wrong things. So many times people newly coming to church, newly being involved in the things of God, getting excited about the things of God.

And people will come along and say, oh, let us teach you more. Always be careful of that. When men start saying, I can teach you more, be very careful.

[9 : 52] The things we need to know are all written in this book. All we have to do is know the book. Get involved with this. That's why, again, I use so much scripture when I do things so that we know what the Bible says.

It doesn't matter what I say. What does the Bible say? And so these people were trying to pull believers away. Notice two things here in verse 17. He says, they zealously affect you, but not well.

Yea, they would exclude you that you might affect them. He uses the word affect. The idea is they're trying to go after these young believers.

He's trying to go after them and affect them for what they believe about following the law in Judaism. They're trying to pull these people away. They're pulling the believers away.

He says, they're trying to exclude you. The tactic of these false believers was to separate the new believers from the congregation so that they could teach them the false doctrine. Separate them away from those who had taught them.

[10 : 55] Separate them away from Paul who had taught them about who Jesus was and what Jesus had done for them. And the Galatians are responding to their efforts.

And Paul's saying, no, no, no. Don't do that. It's just like, again, us today. Be careful. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, charismatic, other.

Be careful of what they teach. Know the Bible. Everything you need to know is right there. Take that Bible.

Read it. Study it. Know it for yourself. Matter of fact, Paul kind of goes after these guys as we're going to find out. Charles Spurgeon once said, it is a remarkable fact that all the heresies which have arisen in the Christian church have had a decided tendency to dishonor God and to flatter men.

I know more. I can teach you more. I can give you the direction. He went, no, I can't. But God in his word can. The Holy Spirit can teach you. The Holy Spirit can guide you.

[12 : 07] I may be able to guide you into things. But if I'm not guiding you using the word of God, I'm guiding you wrong. I need to show you the things from the word of God. 1 Corinthians 4, 14 and 15.

I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons, I warn you. For though ye have 10,000 instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers.

For in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. What is he saying? You might have a lot of people teaching you things about the Bible. You might have a lot of people teaching you things about Jesus.

You might have a whole lot of influences coming in. But you have one father. Or maybe he's even mentioning two. You have God, Jesus Christ, and then Paul who led them to Jesus Christ.

He says, listen to the people who know about Christ. Listen to the people who put Christ first. Romans chapter 16, verses 17 and 18.

[13 : 15] Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly.

And by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. What is the whole health and wealth gospel about? You do what I say.

You follow what I say. You give to my cause. And you will be blessed. You see those guys on TV and on the radio all the time. Give, give, give to me.

I hate talking about giving. It's in the Bible. And if you were in Sunday school this morning, I talked about giving. I don't like talking about giving. I believe as Christians, out of the love of our heart for Jesus Christ and for God, we just give automatically.

If I have to keep coming back and going, you need to give, you need to give, you need to give, you need to give, like a lot of these TV shows do. That's not right. It's about what God is doing.

[14 : 22] Vance Havner, who was a preacher back in the early part of the 1900s, he said this. The early Christians condemned false doctrine in a way that sounds almost unchristian today.

They didn't pull any punches back then. You're teaching something contrary to the word of God. They were coming after you. Today, you know, we've got to be loving.

We've got to be kind. We've got to do this. And I agree. You know, we've got to do that. You don't, you get more with honey than, than, how's that going on? Huh? Vinegar.

Vinegar. Yeah. I hate vinegar. Anyway, he says, look, they seemed unchristian, but they stood for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

They stood for Jesus Christ and what he believed. Paul says, look, they're trying to do all these things, and they have a misplaced zeal. A misplaced zeal.

[15 : 22] Look at verse 18. It is actually, go back to 17. It says, they zealously affect you, but not well. 18. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing.

And not only when I am present with you. And not only when I am present with you. He says, it is good for you to be zealously affected about the things of Christ, to follow the things of God, to follow his word. And not only when I'm with you.

When I'm gone, you still have the word of God. When I'm gone, you still have the Holy Spirit working in your life. When I'm gone, you still know what God wants you to do.

Notice he says in verse 19, my little children. He's talking to them as little children. When he uses that word child, children, he's talking about zero to primary age, which is, you know, six, seven, eight, nine years old.

He says, my little children, you're young in the faith. You haven't grown all that much yet. You're not mature yet. So don't be listening to all these other people.

[16 : 30] Listen to me. Listen to Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit. He used the word formed there in that verse 2, verse 19.

Until Christ be formed in you. Until we become Christ-like. He says, when you become Christ-like, then you'll understand. When you become Christ-like, then you will go in the right direction.

But until then, listen to the instruction I'm giving you. Listen to what I am telling you about Jesus. In Romans chapter 8, verses 28 and 29.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Some things come into our life we may not think are good.

When I was working with Mike at the jail, we would talk about this verse very often. Mike got arrested, wound up in jail through circumstances that are kind of interesting.

[17 : 37] God worked it out for he and I to come in contact through a pastor in Florida. And we would talk about the fact that Mike did something he shouldn't have done.

He wound up in jail. All things work together for good. Not all things are good. But all things work together for good. Mike, you're in jail.

Not good. Mike, you did this thing. Not good. Mike, you're learning about Jesus Christ. Eventually, Mike gave his life to Jesus Christ.

Good. All things work together for good. Doesn't mean it all is good. It works together for good. In verse 29, he says, For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son.

You get saved. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your life. You ask him to save you. He says, here's what you're predestined to do. Here's what I have planned for you.

[18 : 41] Conform to the image of his son. You get saved. You know who Jesus Christ is. You know what he did for you.

You know how he went to the cross. Gave his life. Rose again. Ascended back into heaven. Seated next to the right hand of the Father. He says, and I want you to be conformed to him as image.

When you get saved, what's your future? You're going to die someday. But you're also going to rise. You're going to be having an eternity in heaven.

You're going to be there with Jesus Christ. We'll talk some more about that in a few minutes. Jesus set the pattern for us. I want you to be conformed to his image. I want you to be like him.

And that's the process that Paul had in mind. But here come one of these Judaizers who are confusing the situation. Look at verse 20.

- [19 : 37] I desire to be present with you now. Yeah, with you now. And to change my voice, for I stand in doubt of you. That word, stand in doubt. Paul was perplexed.
- Paul was like, I taught you about Christ. I taught you who he is. I taught you what he did for you. I taught you what you have in him. I taught you what you're going to have in him. I'm perplexed.
- How could you go backwards so fast? How could you give up on what Christ did for you? How could you go back to these other things that are going to hold you in bondage? And he gives them a picture.
- The second thing I'm showing you, he gives them a picture of law and grace. Verses 22 through 27. And what he does is he gives the sons of Abraham, first of all. Abraham had two sons.
- And he gives those sons. And he's going to show us flesh versus faith. If we walk in the flesh versus walking in faith. And he says, look. First of all, here's the son of flesh.
- [20 : 37] Ishmael. The son of flesh. Ishmael was born after the flesh. It says in different places in God's word. And he's born of a bond woman.
- The other is born of a free woman. And he says, here's Ishmael. He's born to Hagar, an Egyptian bond slave, Sarah's handmaid.
- Genesis 16, 15. Hagar bore Abraham a son. And Abraham called his son's name, which Hagar bore, Ishmael. Ishmael was born.
- Think about this for a second. Ishmael was born because Sarah lost faith in God's promises. Do not ever lose faith in God's promises that he's given to us.
- The Bible says if we don't do things in faith, it's not going to work out well for us. Romans chapter 14, verse 23, it says this. The last part of the verse.
- [21 : 39] For whatsoever is not of faith is sin. When we give up on having faith in God and what he's going to do, trusting his promises to us, he says that's sin. Be so very careful.
- Do not give up on God. Ishmael was a result of people giving up on God and his promises. And think about that.
- Most of you probably know this, but here we are in 2025. The children of faith, we're going to talk about in just a second, Isaac, is Israel.
- The children of the flesh, Ishmael, who are they? You know, all those Arab countries that are around Israel? Ishmael, those are descendants of Ishmael.
- And to this day, they are still going back and forth. The son of faith is Isaac. Isaac's born of Sarah. She's a free woman. Listen to Genesis 21, verses 1 and 2.
- [22 : 46] It says, Did you notice how many times it talks about the fact that God had spoken?
- God had given Abraham a covenant. He had given him a promise. He had said, this is what's going to happen. Now it took a while.
- But Abraham had to just trust God. Sarah just had to trust God. That God will always keep his promises. They didn't think God was going to. And it's understandable.
- There's a 10-year age gap between Abraham and Sarah. So at the age of 86, Sarah says, I'm 76. This isn't happening.
- Women at 76 don't have children. So you go take my handmaid and you have a child so that you have an heir. Someone to carry on the family line. But that was not God's plan.
- [24 : 00] That was not what God had in mind. Later on, 14 years later, Abraham's 100. Sarah's 90. God says, now's a good time to have a kid.
- Can you imagine having a kid at 190? But God said, now's a good time. Why? There was no doubt about who was making this happen.

It wasn't Sarah and Abraham. God made sure it happened. God fulfilled his promise to them. You are going to have a child. Just trust me.

How often do we neglect God's promises? How often do we neglect to follow what God has for us? It's also an example not only of flesh and faith.

It's an example of law versus grace. He goes on and he talks about that, what happened there. And he says, look, Hagar, the bondwoman, represents the law.

[25 : 04] You go back to the law, you're going into bondage. I have to do this. I have to do this. I have to do this. I have to do this. He says, you stick with grace and I just follow Christ.

You know, isn't that a lot easier? Do this. Do this. Do this. Do this. Do this. Do this. Remember, the Jews had 630 some odd laws. He says, look, how about if you just follow Christ?

It's a whole lot easier. And that's what we need to do. James chapter 2, verse 10. It says, for whosoever shall keep the whole law and get offended in one point, he is guilty of all.

630 some odd laws. You mess up in one, you're guilty of all. Well, that doesn't seem fair. Really?

Let me show you something. Let's bring it down to 10. The 10 commandments. I shall have no other gods before thee. Nope. Haven't done that. I shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

[26 : 05] Nope. Haven't done that. I shall not commit adultery. Nope. Haven't done that. I shall not kill. Commit murder. Nope. Haven't done that. Thou shall not covet. Well, I might have thought I'd like to have something somebody else has.

I wish I had this. I wish I had that. I wish I. And he says, you know what? You failed in one. You failed in all.

No, I didn't fail in all. I only failed in coveting. But coveting is part of the law. So therefore, I have failed the law.

He says, you can't just fail in one area. When you fail in one area, you fail in all of them. But he says, look. Look. I think I got one more verse up there.

Yep, I do. Galatians 3.10. Galatians 3.10 says, For as many as are in the works of the law are under the curse, for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

[27 : 15] Cursed is anyone who doesn't do all things. We can't keep the law. The law was to teach us that we can't keep the law. The law was to teach us that we need a savior.

And that's what we have. Gospel is freedom. Gospel is freedom. He says in verse 26, turn toward a heavenly Jerusalem.

Be looking toward the Jerusalem that is from above. Don't be looking at the Jerusalem here. You think about it. When Abraham was alive, there was no Jerusalem. It's not coming until later.

So these people teaching, oh, you need to do this. That's what our fathers did. No, there wasn't one when Abraham was there. He says, look for the one that's above.

See, they're free from the bondage of sin and death and hell and the condemnation that the law brings. He said, you're going to be able to follow Christ and you're going to be able to produce fruit that's going to last for all eternity.

[28 : 18] He said, look, forget what they're trying to teach you. Follow Christ. Which the last thing, the path of spiritual freedom. The path of the spiritually free.

He says, look, we're born into promise. Look at verse 28. Verse 28 says, now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. He says, look, don't go backwards.

Don't go following these things. Keep on the right path because you are a child of promise and God always keeps his promises. I've just shown you that God always does what's right.

God always keeps his word. You're a child of promise. First John chapter three, verses one and two said this. Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.

Whereof the world knoweth us not because they knew him not. We are called the sons of God. We've talked about that over the last few weeks. How important that is. To be a child of God.

[29 : 24] Be a part of his family. Verse two. Beloved, now are we the sons of God. And it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him.

For we shall see him as he is. We are to be Christ-like. How is that ever going to happen? We know us. We know the sinful nature we have. We know how we act. We know how we think. How am I ever going to be Christ-like?

He says, you keep following me. You keep your eye on me. You keep doing it. And I will guarantee you. I promise you. That when I come again, you're going to be like me.

You ever watch people? Have you ever watched yourself? How many of you? Most of you are older. As you're going through life, you find yourself some days, you say something or you do something.

And you say, for me, my dad used to say that. My dad used to make that mannerism. My dad used to. Do you ever do that?

[30 : 22] He says, there's going to come a day. We're going to see him. And we're going to be like him. Because we're going to see him as he is. We're going to be just like him.

But we have to remember, in the meantime, we are here in this life. And we are subject to persecution and trials. We're subject to persecution and trials.

Ishmael used to make fun of Isaac. He was 14 years older. Kind of natural in some ways. You know, the older brother, making fun of the younger brother. Probably didn't want the younger brother around.

Go away. Leave him alone. You know. You all know how that works, right? So here's Ishmael, 14 years older than Isaac. And he's giving Isaac trouble all the time.

Matter of fact, Genesis 21, 9. Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, which he had borne unto Abraham, mocking.

[31 : 28] Mocking. He's ridiculing. He's mocking. He's just giving Isaac a hard time. And Sarah finally comes to the point where she's like, no. No more.

There's something going to be done about this. And the thing that happened was a separation. And he's telling us now, just like them, we have to have a separation from false teaching.

We have to have a separation from those type of things that are taking place. The Judaizers were causing all kinds of trouble. And Paul's saying, look, you need not to be associating with them.

Genesis 21, 10. Wherefore, she said unto Abraham, cast out this bondwoman and her son. For the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

Going to have to separate. Going to have to put some socks. And we look at that and we say, that is harsh. That is, wow. That shouldn't be. It was her idea. And now she's saying, put him away.

[32 : 33] It was harsh, but it was necessary. When we have, those of you that have had cancer. When we have cancer.

What's the usual solution? Well, we're going to have to cut that out of there. We can't leave it in there with the good stuff. We've got to cut it out. But it's still part of your body. But we've got to cut it out.

In order to keep you healthy. Take your Bibles. Go to Romans chapter 8. Romans chapter 8. It seems harsh.

But when we cut out the bad. When we cut out the things that are contrary to God and his word. When we cut out the things that are contrary to Jesus Christ. And what he has taught us.

Romans chapter 8. Beginning at verse 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. But ye have received the spirit of adoption.

[33 : 34] Whereby we cry Abba, Father. Remember we've talked about that the last few weeks. Abba, Father. Daddy, Father. God is our Father.

But he's also our dad. He's also the one that we can go to at any time. And look for comfort. Look for strength. Look for healing. He goes on in verse 16.

The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit. That we are the children of God. He says, look. You ask Jesus Christ to come into your life. And Jesus is going to give you his spirit. And his spirit is going to tell you.

You are part of the family of God now. You are part of this fellowship that we have together as a group of people that we are related in Jesus Christ.

Verse 17. And of children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. If so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.

[34 : 34] He says, you're going to be an heir of God. Still, this is one of my favorite verses. Think about that. I am an heir of God. A joint heir with Jesus Christ.

Because of asking Jesus Christ to come into my life. Because of asking Jesus Christ to save me. Not mixing it with anything else. Not mixing it with any laws. Not mixing it with any, you've got to do this and do this and do this and do this.

Just following Jesus. I'm a joint heir. He says, there are going to be times we may suffer. Jesus suffered.

Jesus went through a whole lot of stuff for us. Verse 18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

He says, yes, there are going to be some times we may have to go through some things. But we are going to have a glorious eternity. We are going to be heirs of God.

[35 : 36] Joint heirs with Jesus Christ. And we're going to be part of the glory of heaven. Think about that. Paul says, you don't want to go backwards. You don't want to go back to those things that take away from what you have in Christ.

You need to remember. Jesus did all this for you. So that you could be part of the family. Wow. Think about it.

We must not allow false teachers to come into our churches to persuade young believers.

We must be conscious of helping people to mature, to grow in Christ, and to walk with him always. We are to be molded into his image and follow him.

To do that, we have to walk with him. We have to see him and everything. We have to listen to his words. We have to have a passion for Jesus Christ.

[36 : 47] Take your hymn book. Go to page 371. Follow him and follow him.