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Subject: ~~Galatians 4:16-17~~ - Gal. 4:17
They Would Exclude You

"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."
- Galatians 4:16-17

In the Apostle Paul's tender care for the churches of Galatia, he writes this letter to bring them back to the truth of the Gospel. Paul has a sincere love for them and so he labours to bring them back. It would be far easier for him to just leave them be and say, "Well, if they're God's elect, God will open their eyes to the truth..."

But the Apostle's love is far too great, both for the Galatians, and for the Lord. God doesn't bless slothfulness, but only the most diligent labours spent in His name. Therefore Paul is tirelessly pleading with these Galatians to repent and to stay away from the false teachers who are trying to discredit Paul, and lead them astray by their false doctrines.

Everything Paul is telling them is true; and yet, he is being made to look like the enemy,

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

Next, he sets a warning before them that the Galatians would awake to the startling realization that they have been drawn away by wolves. Such is how these predators hunt their prey, they go for the ones farthest from the flock, and kill them.

So are these false teachers doing to these Galatians; he says, "They zealously affect you," meaning, they pay a lot of attention to you, they show their love for you, they pretend they care for you, "but not well;" their end, says the Apostle, is not good. They are pulling you more and more away from the truth, they don't really care for you, they don't really love you - you're just food fit for the slaughter, "yea, they would exclude you," separating you from me (Apostle Paul), they are perverting your minds not only from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, but even me, His servant. These false teachers are trying to separate us, they are succeeding, wake up! They are destroying you! Remember who I am - the

Apostle Paul - I have ministered the Gospel to you sacrificially. I have put you ahead of myself, remember how you loved me? Don't yield to these seducers who care not at all for you, "that ye might affect them." Here is their purpose, to remove me out of the ~~picture~~^{way} so you will love them; and so not only have they cast me aside and rejected me; but now you also. They want you to love their false teachings and be edified in their imaginations. They want your applause, they seek another member of their group because they pride themselves in the numbers of their audiences, and to show you around as their trophy.

I am reminded of the movie "Terminator" when Sarah Connor was hitting the fence trying to get the children to run from the coming danger, but they wouldn't hear. She began slamming the fence and shouting, but they couldn't hear, and continued playing...

"Now the spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 1 Timothy 4:1

All this is being done TODAY! False teachers have arisen who have been given a "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thess. 2:11). They are teaching that God is no longer saving people, that May 21, 2011 was Judgment Day and this world is presently under judgment, that all churches are apostate... these are LIES!!!

The consciences of their followers are tormented by their works gospel. Awake from your stupor! Trust in Jesus, not their doctrine; trust in Jesus, or you'll get locked in!

The Gospel is for everyone - it is for sinners - trust in Jesus! You can change, you can leave their false doctrines, you can trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, "Whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life... He that believes on Him is not condemned... He that believes on the Son has everlasting life... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved... Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..." Don't let them "exclude you."

Your servant and friend for Jesus' sake,

Rev. J. W. W.