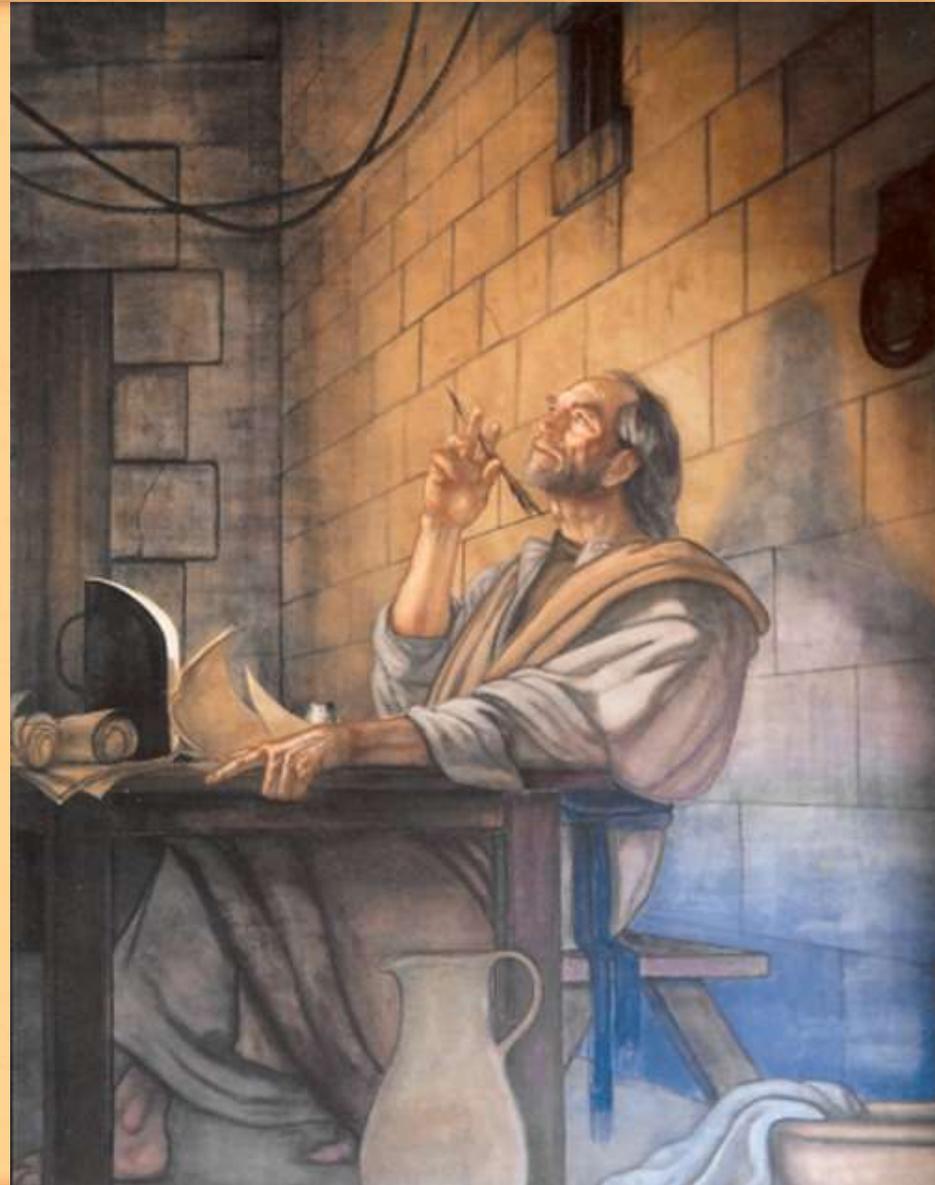
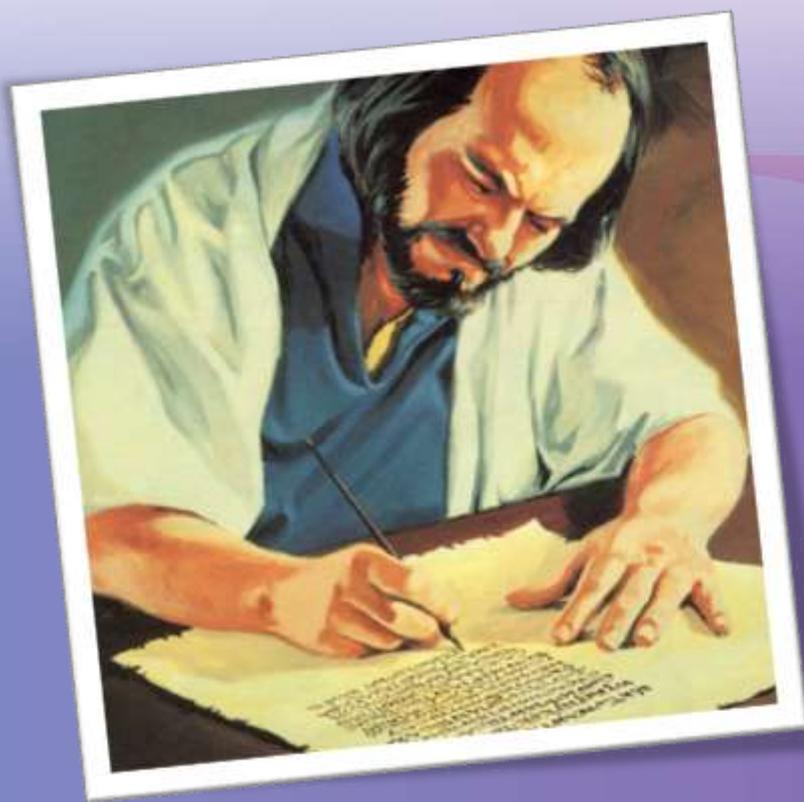


PAUL'S PASTORAL APPEAL

Lesson 9 for August 26, 2017





✉ **Paul's pastoral appeal. Galatians 4:12.**

✍ “Brethren, I urge you”

✍ “to become like me”

✍ “for I became like you”

✉ **Remembering the beginnings. Galatians 4:13-15.**

✉ **Telling the truth. Galatians 4:16-20.**

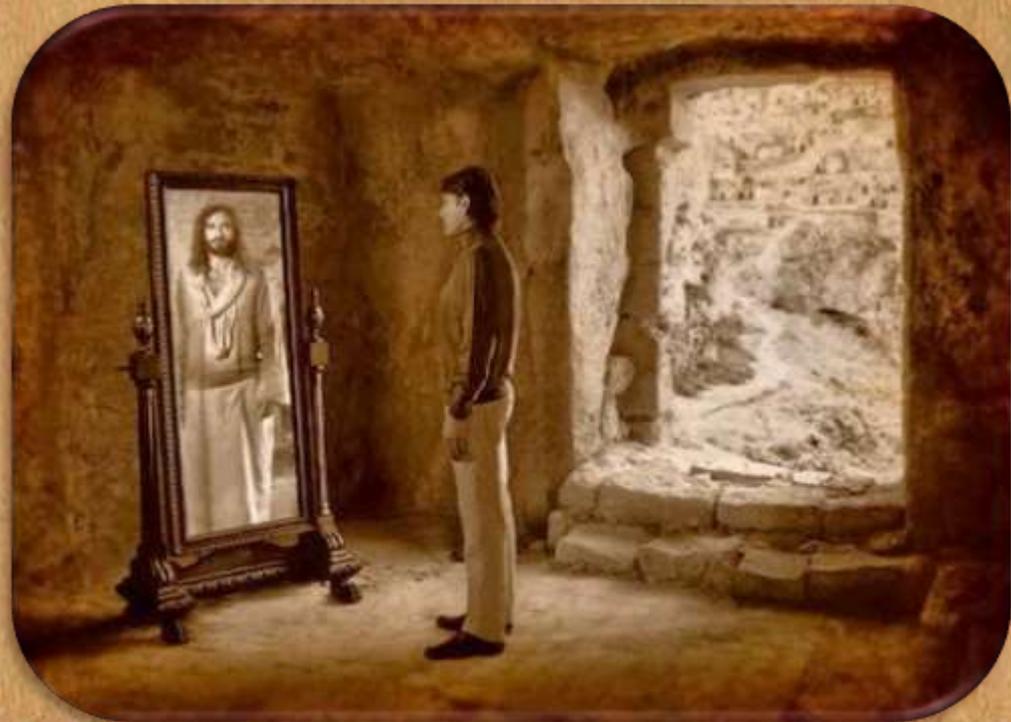
“BRETHREN, I URGE YOU”

Paul first appealed to reason, then he made a request, a call to Galatians' hearts.

They were his spiritual children, but his work seemed fruitless because of the way they were behaving. He had to “labor in birth again” so they could connect to Christ again (Galatians 4:19).

They had interrupted their own growth, so they had to be completely transformed. Christ had to be “gestated” in them again.

Paul couldn't rest until he saw Jesus in the Galatians again.



“TO BECOME LIKE ME”

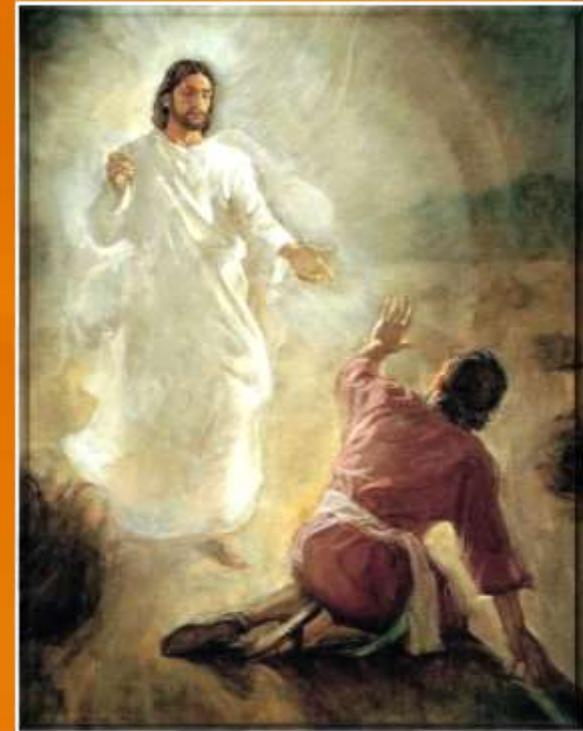
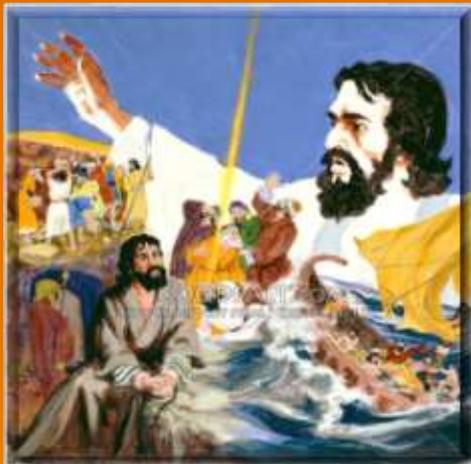


Paul asked his brothers to imitate him as an example of Christians behavior several times. (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17).

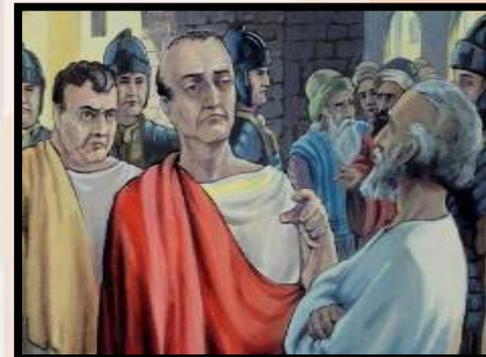
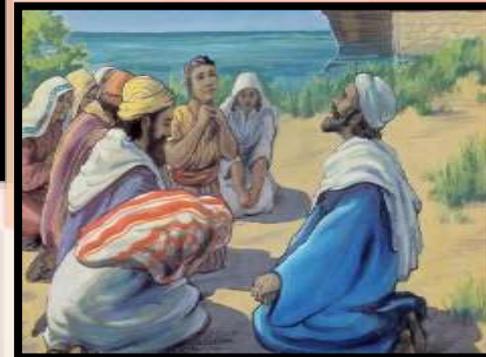
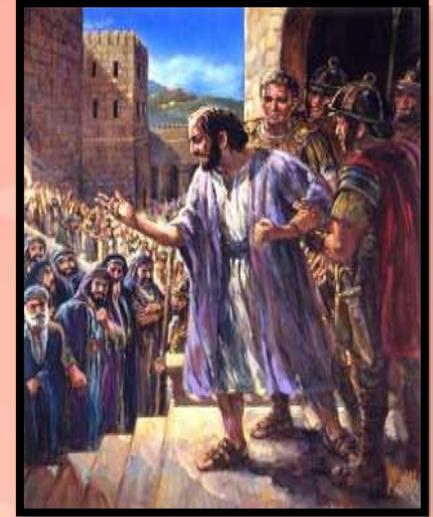
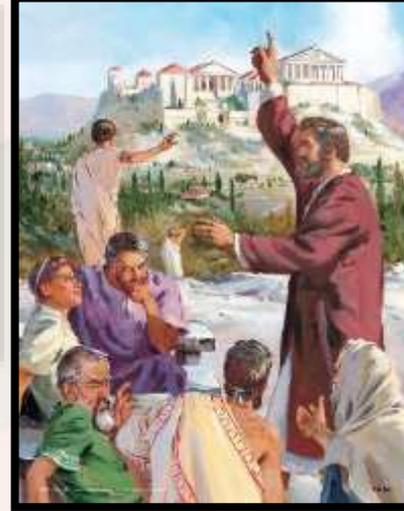
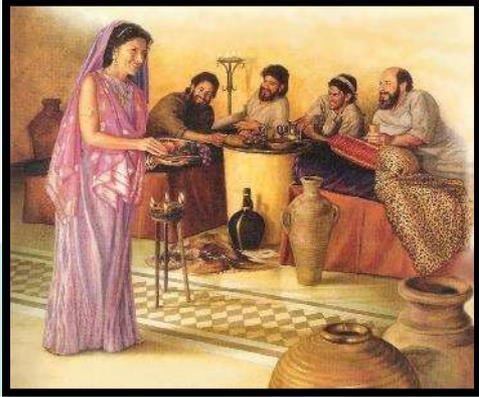
This time he goes beyond imitation only. Like in his call to Agrippa (Acts 26:28-29), Paul didn't ask the Galatians to act like him, but to be like him.

He wanted them to experience the same Christian life he was living, the same joy for salvation, the same communion in Christ...

The Galatians were valuing their behavior more than their identity in Christ. If they didn't change that, they would finally lose their communion in Christ.



“FOR I BECAME LIKE YOU”



Paul had the gift of contextualization. He used different methods depending on the people he wanted to reach.

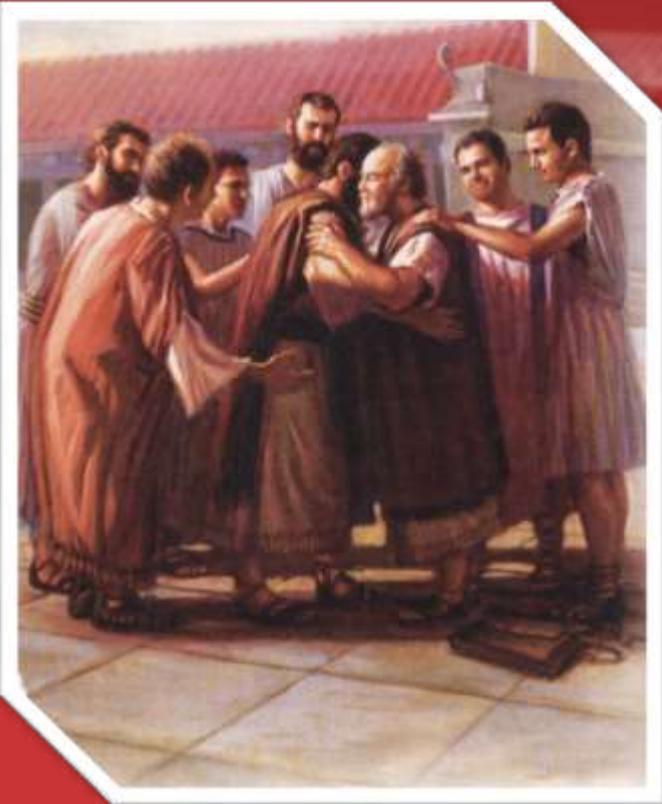
He talked to the philosophers with wisdom (Acts 17:16-34). He persuaded the Jews with their rites (see Hebrews). He talked about Christ's cross only to the immoral Corinthians (1 Corinthians 2:2). He was a Jew, but he became Gentile to reach the Galatians.

“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22 NIV)

REMEMBERING THE BEGINNINGS

“You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.” (Galatians 4:13)

In his second missionary trip to Europe, Paul was guided by the Spirit through Galatia (Acts 16:6-10).



Paul rested in Galatia because of an eye illness. He took that opportunity to testify to his faith before the Corinthians, who loved him so much that they would've torn out their eyes to give them to him if they could (Galatians 4:15). At the end of his letter, Paul told them that he still had problems with his eyes (Galatians 6:11). Paul appealed to the feelings of joy the Galatians felt when they knew about the truths of Gospel. Had those feelings vanished?



TELLING THE TRUTH

"Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16 NIV)

Paul decided to confront the Galatians with their behavior, even if that could undermine their relationship.

His motivation was pure. He loved them so much that they didn't want any of his sons and daughters in faith to get lost.

His attitude contrasted with those of the false teachers who tried to win the affection of the Galatians for selfish reasons (Galatians 4:17).

Apparently, Paul's exhortation to the Galatians was successful. They kept his letter, so it looks like they responded to his exhortation and followed it accordingly. That way they showed how they held Paul in high regard and how they had accepted the truth he had preached them.



“Paul pleaded with those who had once known in their lives the power of God, to return to their first love of gospel truth. With unanswerable arguments he set before them their privilege of becoming free men and women in Christ, through whose atoning grace all who make full surrender are clothed with the robe of His righteousness. He took the position that every soul who would be saved must have a genuine, personal experience in the things of God.

The apostle’s earnest words of entreaty were not fruitless. The Holy Spirit wrought with mighty power, and many whose feet had wandered into strange paths, returned to their former faith in the gospel. Henceforth they were steadfast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free. In their lives were revealed the fruits of the Spirit—‘love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.’ The name of God was glorified, and many were added to the number of believers throughout that region”

E.G.W. (The Acts of the Apostles, cp. 36, p. 388)