

RESCUED
by **GRACE**

Wasted Efforts?

Galatians 4:8-11



²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

Galatians 2:21

²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:24

⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting
Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for
a different gospel,

Galatians 1:6

¹ You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Galatians 3:1-2

⁸ However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles, to which you want to be enslaved all over again?

Galatians 4:8-11

¹⁰ You meticulously observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

Galatians 4:8-11

“Reasons Paul Feared He May Have Wasted His Efforts”

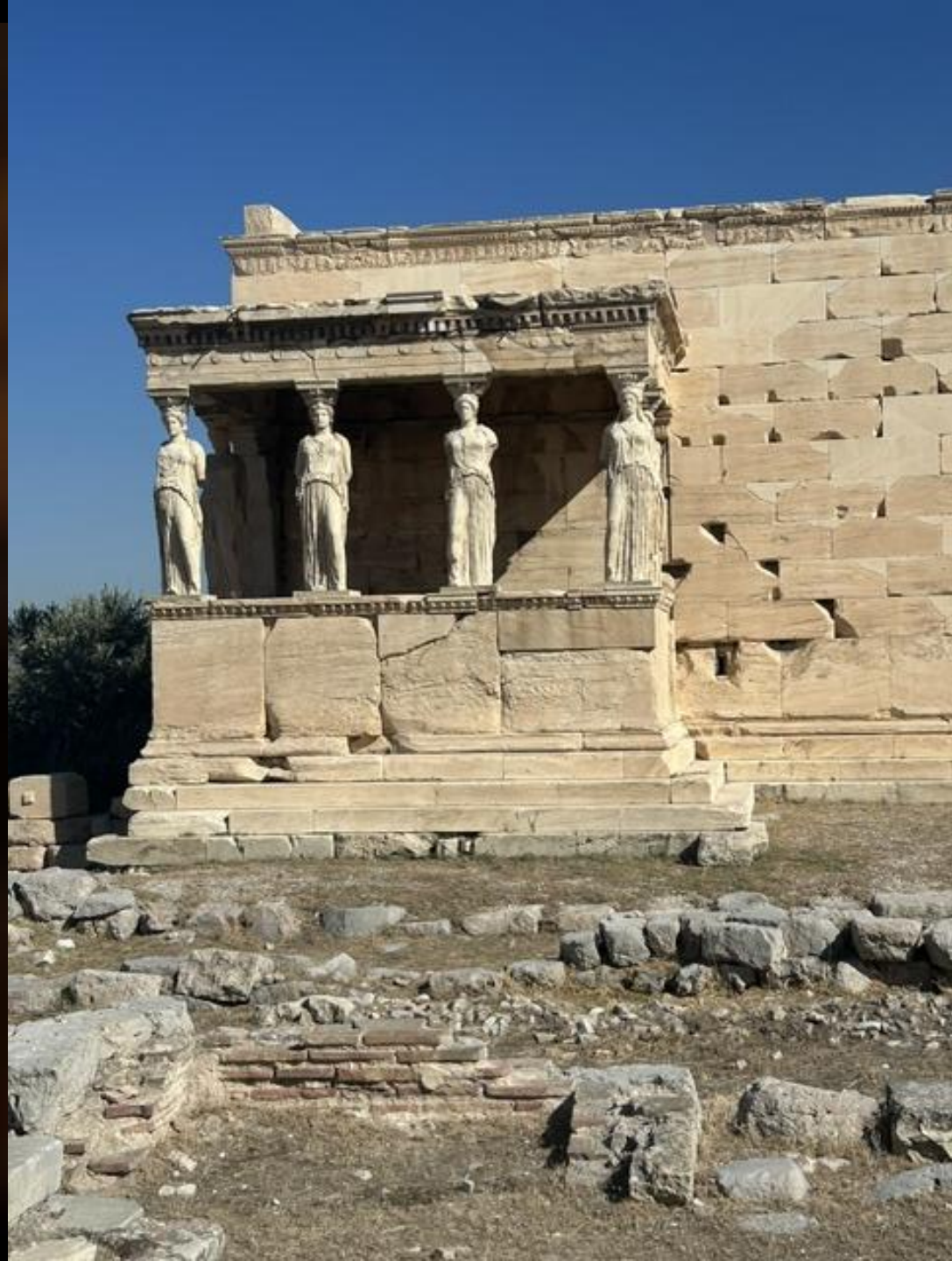
1. He Had Witnessed the Galatians’ Past Enslavement to Polytheistic Paganism (Gal 4:8; Acts 14:8-20)
2. He Had Witnessed the Galatians’ Coming to Know Christ (Present & Future!) (Gal 4:9a; Luke 7:22-23)
3. He Had Witnessed the Galatians’ “Turning” to Their Former Enslavement (in Process) (Gal 4:9b-10)
4. The Result: Paul’s Fear – “somehow I have wasted my efforts” (Gal 4:11; 1 John 2:19)
5. Challenges

⁸ However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are not gods.

Galatians 4:8

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1. He Had Witnessed the Galatians’ Past Enslavement to Polytheistic Paganism (Gal 4:8; Acts 14:8-20)
 - A. Zeus & Hermes, Greek Mythology, and the Established Folklore (Acts 14:8-20)







⁸ In Lystra a man was sitting whose feet were incapacitated. He had been disabled from his mother's womb, and had never walked. ⁹ This man was listening to Paul as he spoke. Paul looked at him intently and saw that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ and he said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet!" And the man leaped up and began to walk. ¹¹ When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us!"

Acts 14:8-20

¹² And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, since he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Moreover, the priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men, of the same nature as you, preaching the gospel to you, to turn from these useless things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything that is in them.

Acts 14:8-20

¹⁶ In past generations He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; ¹⁷ yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” ¹⁸ And even by saying these things, only with difficulty did they restrain the crowds from offering sacrifices to them. ¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. ²⁰ But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Acts 14:8-20

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⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God,

Galatians 4:9a

²² And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: people who were blind receive sight, people who limped walk, people with leprosy are cleansed and people who were deaf hear, dead people are raised up, and people who are poor have the gospel preached to them. ²³ And blessed is anyone who does not take offense at Me.”

Luke 7:22-23

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 - A. “Turning” to Paganism Again (Galatians 4:9b)

how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles, to which you want to be enslaved all over again?

Galatians 4:9b

"But how can it be that, on the one hand, having formerly been in ignorance of God and therefore enslaved to those who are not gods and, on the other hand, having come to know God or (which is more to the point) being known by Him, you are now returning anew to those weak and bankrupt elements which once controlled you."

James Montgomery Boice,

His Suggested Translation of Galatians 4:8-9, Commentary on Galatians, 1977

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 - A. “Turning” to Paganism Again (Galatians 4:9b)**
 - B. Abuse of Jewish Calendar as “Paganism” (Galatians 4:10)**

¹⁰ You meticulously observe days and months
and seasons and years.

Galatians 4:10

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¹¹ I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

Galatians 4:11

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us.

1 John 2:19

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Summary Outline of Galatians

- 1.) Gospel of Grace Affirmed & Paul's Apostleship Defended (Ch. 1-2)
- 2.) Establishing Salvation By Grace Alone – “Grace Explained” (Ch. 3-4)
- 3.) How to Walk in Grace – “Grace Applied” (Ch. 5-6)