****

**LESSON** **9**: “A Relational Argument” **Date**: November 16, 2014

**TEXT:** Galatians 4:8-20

**INTRODUCTION**

In Galatians 4:8-20, Paul breaks away from the somewhat academic and theological discourse he has been providing, and he allows the emotional and relational factors at play to come to the front of his argumentation. In essence, Paul adds a seventh point in his argument for the true gospel, and this one is relational—the of Paul (4:8-20). The relevance of this argument is seen in that, although the Galatians had initially just abandoned , they were now abandoning his . So, Paul’s goal here is that his endearment for this church would cause them to revive their affection for and, consequently, reestablish their commitment to his .

**PAUL’S TO THE GALATIANS (4:8-12a)**

1. ***Through Paul’s ministry, they had been from slavery (vv. 8, 9b-10).***

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1. ***Through Paul’s ministry, they had been to God (v. 9a).***
2. ***Through Paul’s ministry, they had been to by their soulwinner (v. 12a).***

**PAUL’S BY THE GALATIANS (4:12b-16)**

1. ***Paul’s physical (vv. 13-14a)***
2. ***His weakness hindered his ministry (v. 13).***
3. ***His weakness tested their ministry (v. 14a).***
4. ***The Galatians’ spiritual (vv. 14b-15)***
5. ***The of their welcome (v. 14b)***
6. ***The of their welcome (v. 14b)***
7. ***The of their welcome (v. 15b)***
8. ***The of their welcome (v. 15a)***

**PAUL’S FOR THE GALATIANS (4:17-20)**

1. ***The of Paul’s love (vv. 17-18)***
2. ***The passion of the Judaizers (v. 17)***
3. ***The passion of Paul (v. 18)***
4. ***The of Paul’s love (vv. 19-20)***
5. ***Personal***
6. ***Emotional***
7. ***Purposeful***
8. ***Concerned***

When spiritual leaders are laboring so endearingly for their flock, it powerfully testifies to the veracity of their message. Their “labor of love” for the flock is a very God-like relationship, and it should cause those to whom they minister to stay close to the truth of God’s Word.

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