

# *“Become Like Me!”*

## **Galatians 4:8-12a**

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

May 5, 2019

### Introduction

- How is it possible for someone to desert the faith which they once held?
- The Galatians’ spiritual desertion
  - Paul’s astonishment over their soon departure
  - The influence of the Judaizers
    - Their attack on Paul—the man and his message
  - Paul’s personal defense—the timeline of his life
- Paul’s theological defense of salvation by grace through faith.
  - Spiritual blessings of Abraham come through faith, not law keeping
  - The law condemns rather than justifies.
  - The law does not supersede or replace the promise made to Abraham.
  - The law had purpose in God’s plan
    - Defines sin
    - Condemns rather than justifies
    - A “tutor” to bring us to Christ
  - The law was never intended to be permanent, but a temporary measure until Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus instituted the “new” covenant relationship through His death
  - Summary statement—Galatians 4:4-7

### *“Become Like Me!”*

#### **A. Paul’s Concerns—Galatians 4:8-20**

1. Personal Concern—Galatians 4:11 *“Labored in vain”*
2. Three-fold Concerns for the churches of Galatia—Galatians 4:8-20
  - a. Their spiritual desertion—4:8-12a
  - b. The breakdown in the relationship between Paul and the Galatians—Galatians 4:12b-16
  - c. Their misguided and misplaced zeal—Galatians 4:17-20
3. Paul’s Concern over their spiritual desertion—Galatians 4:8-12a
  - a. The Galatians’ salvation experience—Galatians 4:8-9a
    - 1) Before conversion, they were enslaved to false gods
      - a) Idols are not real ‘gods’ but are empowered by demons
      - b) They formerly worshiped the Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes—Acts 4:11-15
      - c) Enslaved to false gods because they did not know the living God—Romans 1:21-23
    - 2) Their conversion experience—Galatians 4:9a
      - a) Human viewpoint: They came to “know” God
      - b) Divine viewpoint: God “knew” them.
  - b. The Galatians’ defection—Galatians 4:9b-10
    - 1) Enslavement to the Jewish religious observances.
    - 2) Is Paul equating Judaism with heathenism?

#### **B. Paul’s Appeal—Galatians 4:12a *“Become like me, for I became like you!”***

1. *“Become like me!”*—Paul, the strict legalist, gives it all up to follow Christ
2. *“For I became like you!”*—Paul models freedom in Christ.