

Salvation, Systems & Solution

- I. Salvation (Gal. 4:8-9a, 13-15)
 - A. Loving God (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 4:6, 8) – personal relationship
 - B. Loving Mankind (1 Jn. 3:14; Gal. 4:13-15) – loved Paul
- II. Systems (Gal. 4:8, 9b-10, 17)
 - A. Life Before Salvation (Gal. 4:8; Rom. 1:23, 25; 1 Cor. 8:4; 10:19-20; 1 Thess. 1:9)
 - “Formerly, when you **did not KNOW God [FATHER]**, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods” – **demonic activity/forces – 1 Cor. 10:20***
 - 1. Ethics & Morality – Confucianism, Mosaic Law, Islamic Laws, etc. – all good but are you “under them” and “affected by them”, or are you in a living relationship with the living God?
 - 2. Cultural norms – special days, festivals, etc.
 - 3. Superstitions – Feng Shui, numbers, horoscopes, Psychics, Friday 13th, tribal traditions, caste systems – for some their whole life revolves around these things & everything is affected by them
 - *The gospel of Jesus Christ liberates us from all of this!**
 - B. Life After Salvation (Gal. 4:10) – Now you KNOW GOD!
 - “But now that you have **come to know God [Father]** or to be known by God [Father]”*
 - how do we live after salvation (half & half?) - **JESUS “+”, love God, BUT live by your regulations and superstitions – “former manner of life”**
 - 1. Days – Sabbath (Col. 2:16-17)
 - 2. Principle of days
 - a. Galatians 4 – imposition & insistence in order to be approved - Paul was addressing “Judaizers” who wished to impose OT Jewish ordinances (incl. Sabbath) on Gentile believers who’d never kept the Sabbath
 - b. Romans 14 – neutral & personal choice - Paul was addressing receiving/accepting other believers holding differing views on non-essential practices, without judging or condemning them.
 - 3. Examples: Halloween, Christmas, Easter, etc. – different believers will have different feelings about them – don’t judge
 - C. Those who impose have impure motives (Gal. 4:17) – boast, trophy, their club
- III. Solution (Gal. 4:12a, 19)
 - A. Freedom – “Become as I am...**FREE!**”
 - B. Formation – “Let Christ be **FORMED** in you!” – **CONFORMED** to the Son (Rom. 8:29)