



International Bible Lesson  
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series  
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

## Don't Go Back into Slavery

February 12, 2017

Galatians 4:8-20

*“Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods” (Galatians 4:8).*

The Apostle Paul warns every Christian that before they came into a personal relationship with God, they were enslaved to beings and things that by nature are not gods. Objects of stone, wood, silver, gold, or stock certificates and bank accounts are not by nature gods, but only the materials of which they are made. Paul said that these things represent only “weak and miserable forces” (Galatians 4:9). Paul warned Christians and others: “The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons” (1 Corinthians 10:20). Of special note today, Paul wrote: “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1). Deceiving spirits can entrap people and mislead them into destructive behaviors. In Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Paul warned that some in the church had turned from faithful obedience to Jesus Christ and back to the idols and forces that had previously enslaved them. Paul’s warnings apply to everyone in churches today. Even after becoming Christians, believers still need to battle against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Former believers, such as Demas, stand as bad examples and a warning of what can happen to Christians when they turn away from obeying Jesus Christ. Demas left the faith because he loved this world (2 Timothy 4:10). Jesus Christ came to free believers in Him from slavery to sin and Satan; therefore, Paul encourages believers to keep their freedom by obeying Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Thinking Further

1. What is the way to be freed from slavery to beings and things that are not gods?
2. What can we do if we find ourselves turning back to the forces that once enslaved us?
3. What kind of example did Paul give when he preached the gospel to the Galatians despite an illness?
4. Why do you think the Galatians welcomed Paul despite his illness?
5. What can be the response of someone if we tell them the truth?

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