

ἡμεῖς οὖν οὕτως ἀρχόμεθα  
πολεῖν αὐτῷ καὶ δημοστέργειν

# GALATIANS

The Gospel  
Logic of  
Conversion

καὶ πησώσαν  
οἰσὼ τὰ τῶν

ἀφίσταν  
τὸς αὐτῶ  
λαίωδο  
πόμεται

## Galatians 4:8-11

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

Formerly, when **you did not know God**, you were **enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.**

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

– 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Their idols are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.

They have mouths, but do not speak;  
eyes, but do not see.

They have ears, but do not hear;  
noses, but do not smell.

They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk;

and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.

– Psalm 115: 4-8



They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Ephesians 4:18

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

– Romans 1:21

Failure to believe stems from moral failure to recognize the truth, not from want of evidence, but from willful neglect or distortion of the evidence.

– D. A. Carson





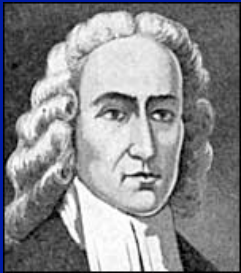
But **now that you have come to  
know God**

And this is eternal life, that they know  
you the only true God, and Jesus Christ  
whom you have sent.

– John 17:3

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,  
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9

The only remedy which God has provided for the miserable, brutish blindness of mankind. It is the only means that the true God has made successful in his providence, to give the nations of the world the knowledge of himself; and to bring them off from the worship of false gods.  
– Jonathan Edwards



But now that you have come to  
know God

**or rather to be known by God**

I am the good shepherd. I know my  
own and my own know me  
– John 10:14

We love because he first loved us.  
– 1 John 4:19



All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

– Matthew 11:27

how can you **turn back again** to the weak  
and **worthless elementary principles** of  
the world, whose slaves you want to be  
once more?

You observe days and months and seasons  
and years!

Beyond question, Paul's lumping of Judaism and paganism together in this manner is radical in the extreme. No Judaizer would ever have accepted such a characterization of Torah observance; nor would those in Galatia who acceded to their message. For Paul, however, whatever leads one away from sole reliance on Christ, whether based on good intentions or depraved desires, is sub-Christian and therefore to be condemned.

– R. N. Longenecker



For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

– Romans 10:2-3

There are only two religions in the world. The religion of human achievement and the religion of divine accomplishment. One is the religion of salvation by works, the other is the religion of salvation by faith. One depends upon what man does. The other depends upon what God did. Now of these two religions, most of the world is banking on the religion of human achievement.

– John MacArthur

