

Title: Second Chance – Galatians 4 12-17

Read:

¹²⁻¹³My dear friends, what I would really like you to do is try to put yourselves in my shoes to the same extent that I, when I was with you, put myself in yours. You were very sensitive and kind then. You did not come down on me personally. You were well aware that the reason I ended up preaching to you was that I was physically broken, and so, prevented from continuing my journey, I was forced to stop with you. That is how I came to preach to you. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶And don't you remember that even though taking in a sick guest was most troublesome for you, you chose to treat me as well as you would have treated an angel of God—as well as you would have treated Jesus himself if he had visited you? What has happened to the satisfaction you felt at that time? There were some of you then who, if possible, would have given your very eyes to me—that is how deeply you cared! And now have I suddenly become your enemy simply by telling you the truth? I can't believe it. ¹⁷Those heretical teachers go to great lengths to flatter you, but their motives are rotten. They want to shut you out of the free world of God's grace so that you will always depend on them for approval and direction, making them feel important.

Think:

Seems to me that the guys in the passage used to really look after the sick, but they have lost their way now. Pauls saying they can start again and do what Jesus wants them to do. I've been in that place to, how about you? Was there a time when you were fired up doing just what God wanted you to do? Maybe you looked out for the lonely guy at school and invited them to join you, but these days you are just far too busy. It's possible that you used to manage to keep away from stuff that you know God didn't want you to do. But somehow you slipped into areas that are just not healthy for you. Maybe drink, maybe sex before marriage, maybe drugs. Do you feel a failure? Do you feel that God doesn't want to know you? Well that's trash, that's the talk of the world, but it's not how God sees you. Our God is a God of second, third, and millionth chances. You remember the prodigal Son returning to his Dad after he spent all the dosh and partying his life away, well that's us. If you feel that you knew God but somehow he walked away, I am here to say that he didn't walk away and he is busy looking for you. Stop, now, this very second and say sorry, he wants to know you more.

Pray:

Lord I am sorry for turning away from you sometimes. Please help me turn to you today, tomorrow and everyday. Amen.

Action:

If you want to recommit your life to God again, make sure you speak to someone today who you trust. Maybe a youth leader, but do it today. Bye.