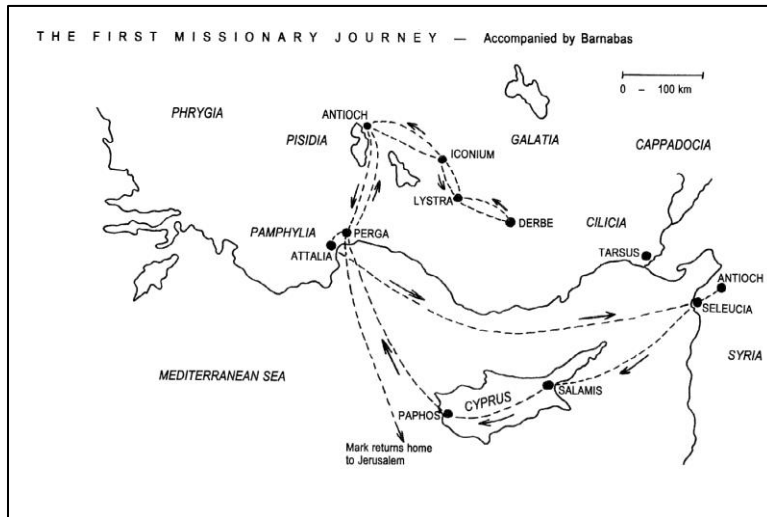


Knowing *Christ*

Lessons from Paul's
Life and Ministry

Freedom in Christ
Galatians 4:1-31
Lesson 5



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. **Mark the text** in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

Lesson Text

Gal 4:1-11

1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Gal 4:12-20

12 Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all. 13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. 14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

17 They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. 18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth

again until Christ is formed in you, 20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

Gal 4:21-31

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar — 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written:

"Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband."

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.



Looking for Gold - *What does it say?*

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

Read Gal 4:1-31

Record what stands out to you as you read



Digging Deeper

Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you or are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring the passage alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc.

Challenge: Use your cross-references, word-studies or encyclopedias to fill in the details and dig deeper into the meaning of the passage. Record what you find.



Boiling it Down - What does it mean?

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence.**

What LESSONS can I draw from my observations?



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. **Record an application for each lesson.**

Challenge: Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your lessons.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** in one or two words. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Gal 4:1-11 _____

Gal 4:12-20 _____

Gal 4:21-31 _____

Bars of Gold: Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Hide Your Treasure in your Heart:

Gal 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. NKJV



Radiating His Truth . . .

The Spirit that dwells in you, oh child of God, is none less than the same Spirit that was in Christ. He teaches us to know God's father-love, and to respond with childlike love and obedience. - Andrew Murray

