

## Intro

- [John 1:12](#) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...
  - Remember what has happened.
  - Be fully aware of the Danger that lurks.
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## Remember--They Have Gone from Slavery to Freedom

**8** Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. **9** 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? **10** You observe days and months and seasons and years! **11** I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

- [Rom 14:5-6](#) One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.
- Easy to fall back into slavery--either into worshipping false gods of our past, or legalism & self-righteousness.

## Remember--They Loved the Gospel

**12** Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. **13** You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, **14** and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. **15** What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. **16** Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

- Luther--"I do not seek [my own] active righteousness. I ought to have and perform it; but I declare that even if I did have it and perform it, I cannot trust in it or stand up before the judgment of God on the basis of it. Thus I ... embrace only ... the righteousness of Christ ... which we do not perform but receive, which we do not have but accept, when God the Father grants it to us through Jesus Christ."
- Easy to forget loving the gospel, fall back to loving self-justification.

## Danger

**17** They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. **18** It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, **19** my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! **20** I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

- Easy to miss the lurking danger of moralism/legalism.

## Benediction

[Rom 3:23-25](#) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith...