

Lenten Devotional Reflection
3rd March, 2020 (Lent Day Six)

Scripture: Galatians 4: 8-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. 9 Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? 10 You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. 11 I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted. 12 Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. 13 You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; 14 though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. 18 It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, 20 I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Message

The central thrust of St. Paul in the Epistle to the Galatians 4:8-20 is to remind the Galatian converts to keep their faith in Christ rather than to return back to their former state of belief, following some weak and beggarly elemental spirits which they worship as gods. Paul shows his grave concern and deep annoyance by their swift following of the false teachers (v.17).

Paul appeals to the Galatians with a kind of motherly love by calling them “my little children” and becomes perplexed about those things happening among them. Even considered by them as their enemy, Paul still want to tell them the truth and exhorts them to return back to the state of faith by sound knowledge of God so that they could live out the faith with goodwill. In the midst of widespread fear of the coronavirus infection today, it seems that even Christians are enslaved by the uncertainty and unrest in our heart. Moment to moment, we closely follow and are caught up by the news and comments on the internet and social media with anxiety and horror.

During this Lenten season, we need to prepare for the Easter Day with quiet time for devotion and reflection. The scripture reminds us to return to the state of faith with freedom and risen Lord will be formed within us. In His good purpose of love, we could care for those in need with sincerity and truth.

Reflection

1. When we are in fear and anxiety, what occupy our heart?
2. Remember a time you gave your helping hand to others with no reservation.
3. Pray for the endowment of Holy Spirit and Christ formed in us.