

Message Notes

The Pain of Ministry

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *Big Ten Champs! Still need to run the bases?*

A plea to remember
Galatians 4:12-14

1. *What Paul gave up*
Galatians 4:12a

Imitative Living
1 Corinthians 4:14-16

The dangerous grip of religion
Philippians 3:1-11

Kirby Puckett – Game 6!

2. *Their affection for him*
Galatians 4:12b-14

What was Paul's illness?

Jerome – Sexual Desire (2 Corinthians 12:7)
Luther – Afflictions from Persecution
Most Scholars
Malaria (Acts 13:3)
Epilepsy (Gal 4:14 – “You did not spit out”)
Serious Eye Disorder (Galatians 4:15)

A plea to their happiness
Galatians 4:15

A plea to the truth
Galatians 4:16

A plea to true relationships
Galatians 4:17-18

The pain of ministering to others
Galatians 4:19-20

2 Corinthians 11:21b-29

Gospel Application – *Are you still trying to run the bases? Are you willing to suffer for the ministry of the gospel?*

Galatians 4:12-20

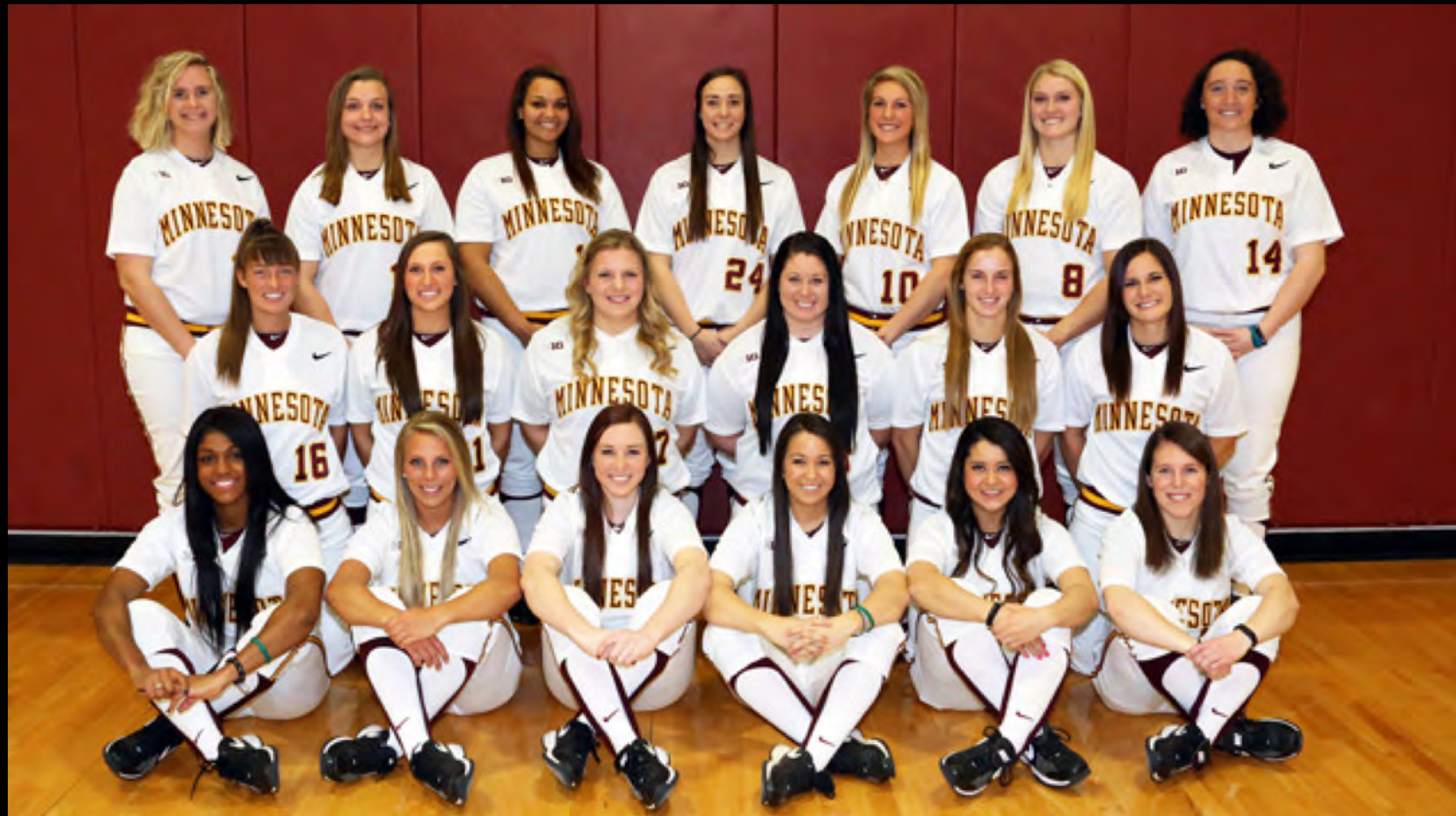
¹²I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, ¹⁴and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. ¹⁸It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. ¹⁹My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

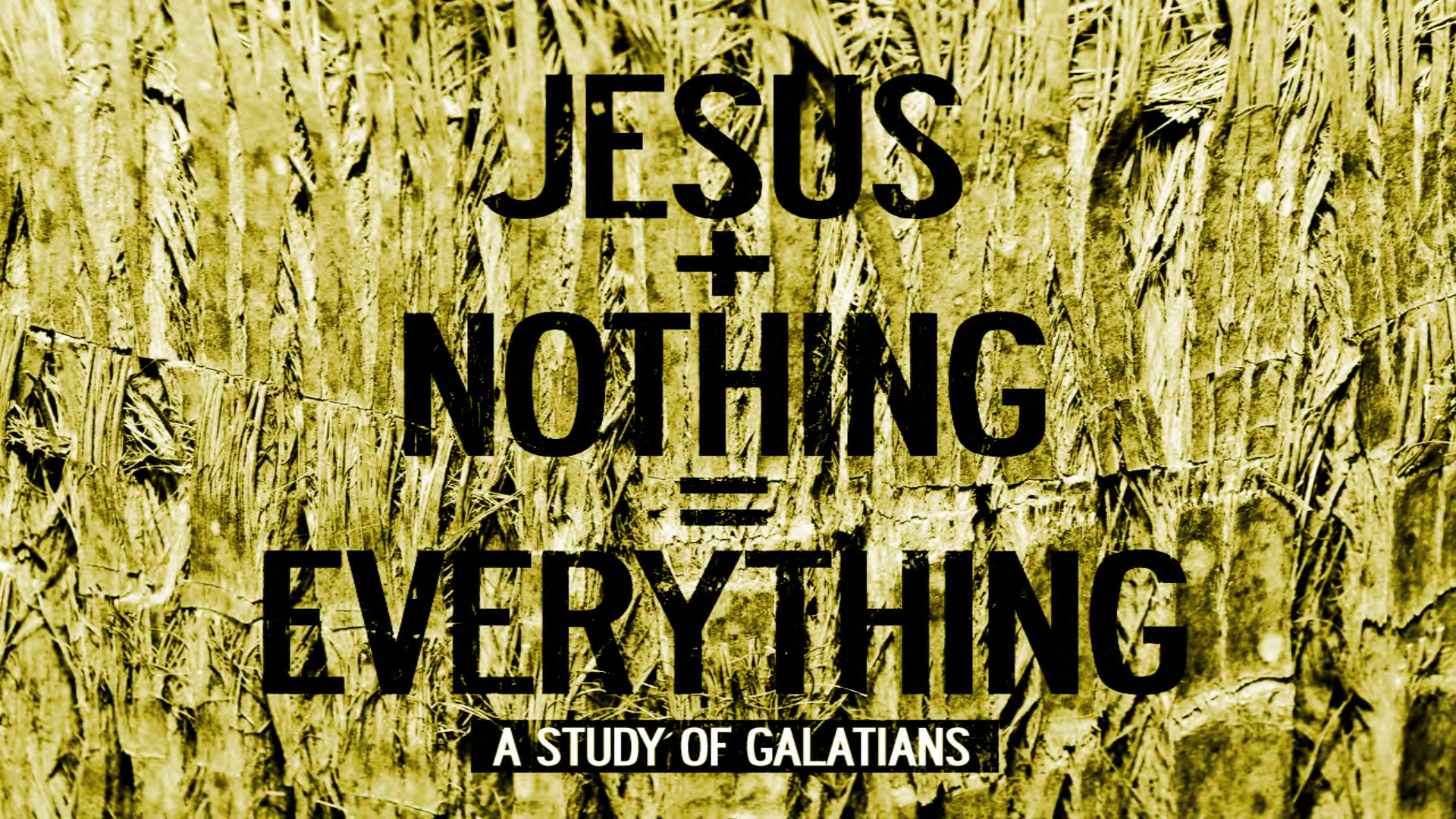
Philippians 3:1-11

¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh – ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Corinthians 11:21b-29

^{21b}What anyone else dares to boast about – I am speaking as a fool – I also dare to boast about. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?





**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 4:1-11

¹What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ²He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

Galatians 4:1-11

⁴But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

⁶Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*”

⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4:1-11

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

Galatians 4:12-20

¹²I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, ¹⁴and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

Galatians 4:12-20

¹⁵Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

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This week's message:

"The Pain of Ministry"

The cost of giving your life for others

Galatians 4:12-20

A plea to remember

1. What Paul Gave Up

Galatians 4:12a

¹²I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, ¹⁴and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

¹⁴I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Philippians 3:1-11

¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh — ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

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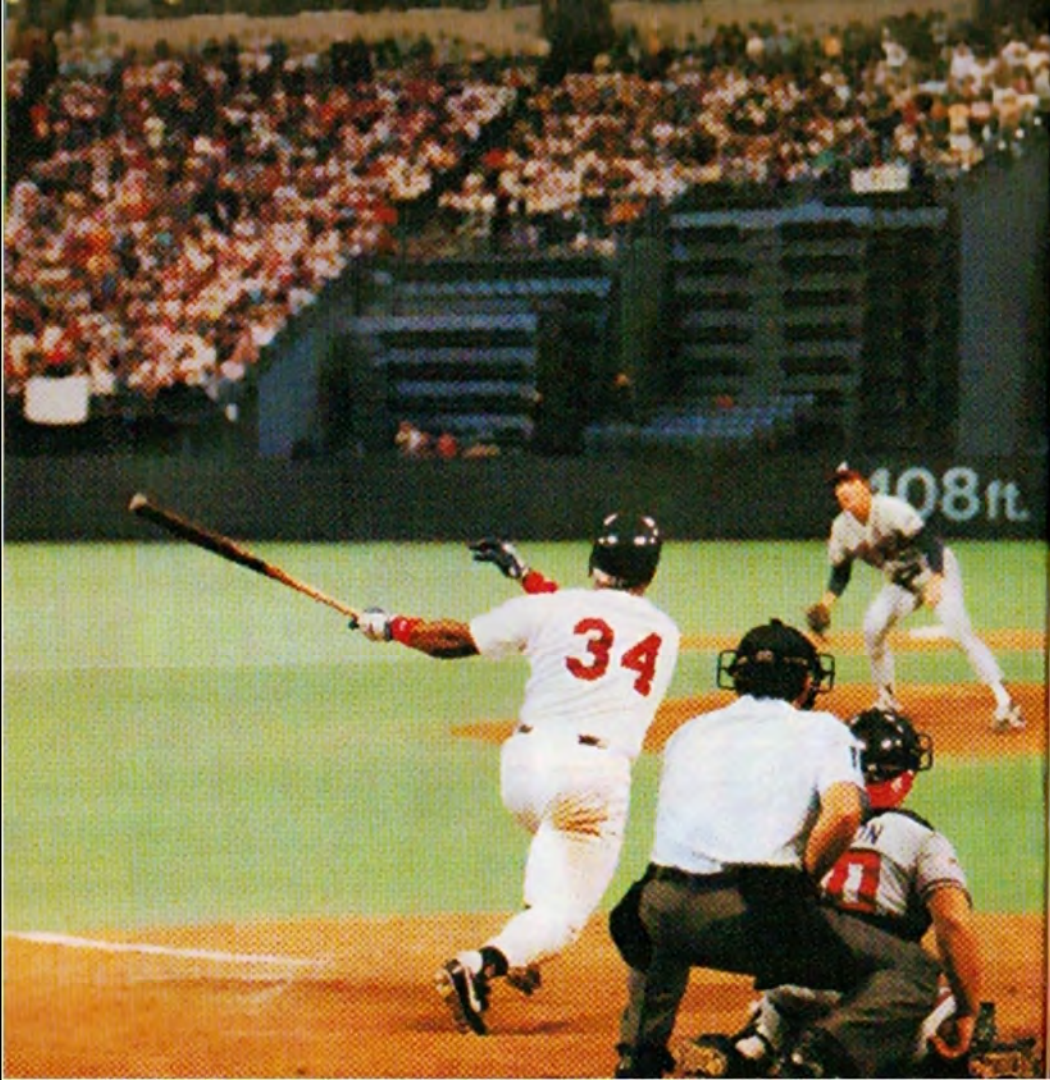
If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

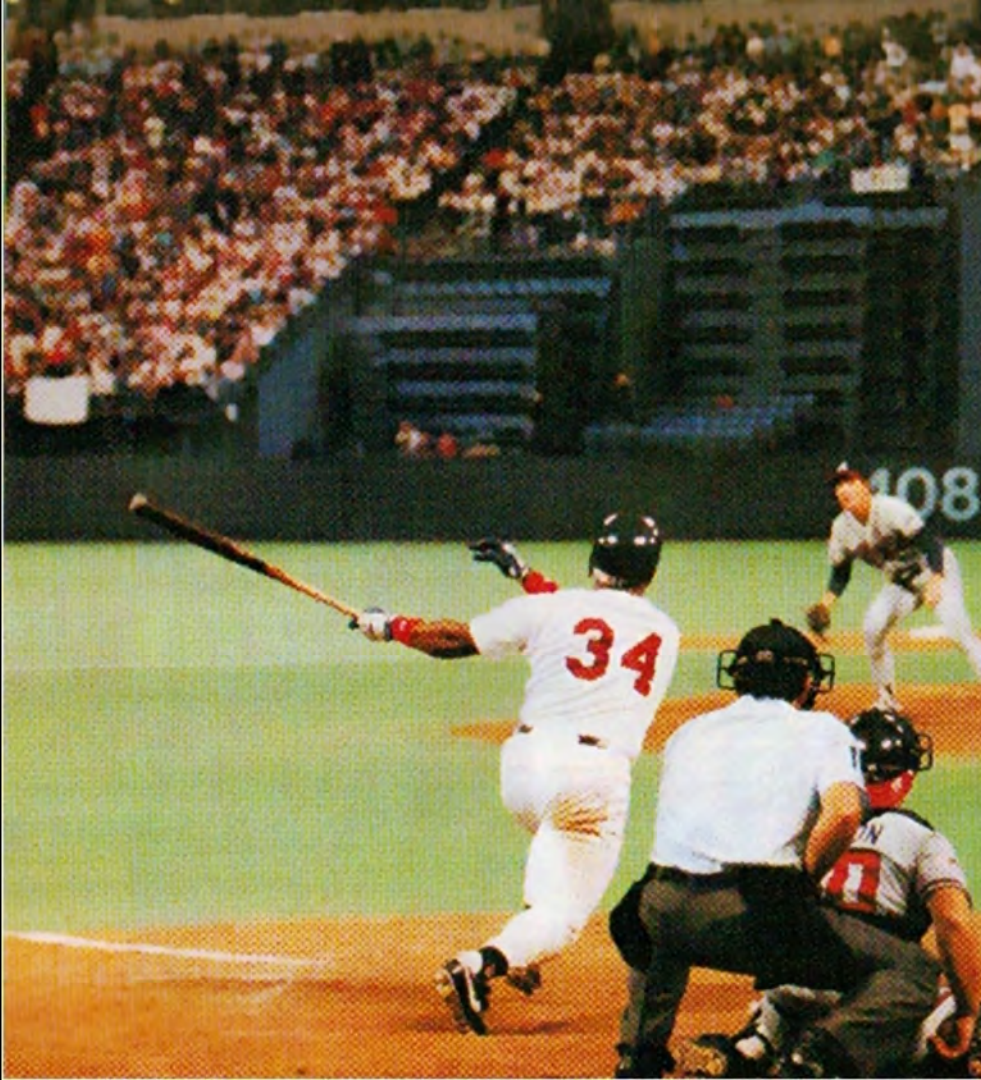
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⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

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¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.





Cast aside all thought of being able, by means of law-works, to become righteous in the sight of God, for that is exactly what I by grace was taught to do. At one time, I, a proud Jew, imagined that I would be able to achieve my own righteousness before God.

But I became as you Gentiles are, by nature condemnable in his sight, with nothing of self to appeal to.

~ William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker, *Exposition of Galatians*, vol. 8, New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953–2001), 169.

A plea to remember

2. Their Affection for him

Galatians 4:12b-14

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What was Paul's Illness?

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2 Corinthians 12:7)

Jerome
Sexual Desire

What was Paul's Illness?



from Persecution

Martin Luther
Afflictions

It is impossible for anyone afflicted with these profound trials to be troubled by sexual desire.



~ Martin Luther, *Luthers Works* 26.420.

What was Paul's Illness?

Most Modern Scholars

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1. Malaria (Acts 13:3)

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Most Modern Scholars

1. Malaria (Acts 13:3)

2. Epilepsy

(Galatians 4:14 – “You did not spit out”)

What was Paul's Illness?

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3. **Serious Eye Disorder** (Galatians 4:15)

A plea to their happiness

Galatians 4:15

¹⁵Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

A plea to the truth

Galatians 4:16

¹⁶Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Friends, this thing has been retarded long enough. The time has come when these sentiments should be uttered, and if it is decreed that I should go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to the truth—let me die in the advocacy of what is just and right.

~ Abraham Lincoln, right before delivering his “A House Divided” speech, in his (unsuccessful) bid for a 1858 Senate seat.



A plea to true relationships

Galatians 4:17-18

¹⁷Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. ¹⁸It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you.

Clarence Jordan's
COTTON PATCH
Gospel



The
Complete Collection



INTRODUCTION BY JIMMY CARTER

Foreword by Will D. Campbell

Afterword by Tony Campolo

Now listen, those fellows who are giving you the rush are not on the level. They are trying to capture you so you can rush around for them. Now it's all right to make over somebody once in a while, provided it is done sincerely. I do it occasionally when I am not in the presence of you, my children, over whom I agonize again and again until Christ takes shape in you. I surely do wish I could be with you right now and change my tone of voice, because you've got me all befuddled.

~ Clarence Jordan The Cotton Patch Gospel, page 100)



The phrase “not just when I am with you” reflects the deep hurt Paul felt because of the fickle affection and shifting loyalties of his erstwhile disciples. Although he was not much to look at physically, Paul’s actual presence and unique personality had no doubt contributed to the overwhelmingly favorable reception the Galatians granted to him during his first sojourn among them.



But now all of that had changed. The Galatian Christians had been courted, seduced, and bewitched by false teachers whose true aim was to alienate their affection from Paul and to enlist them as devotees in their own campaign of self-aggrandizement. Like another Pauline congregation, the church at Ephesus, the Galatian Christians had forsaken their first love (Revelation 2:4).

~ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, page 328.



The Pain of Ministry

Galatians 4:12-20

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Gospel Application

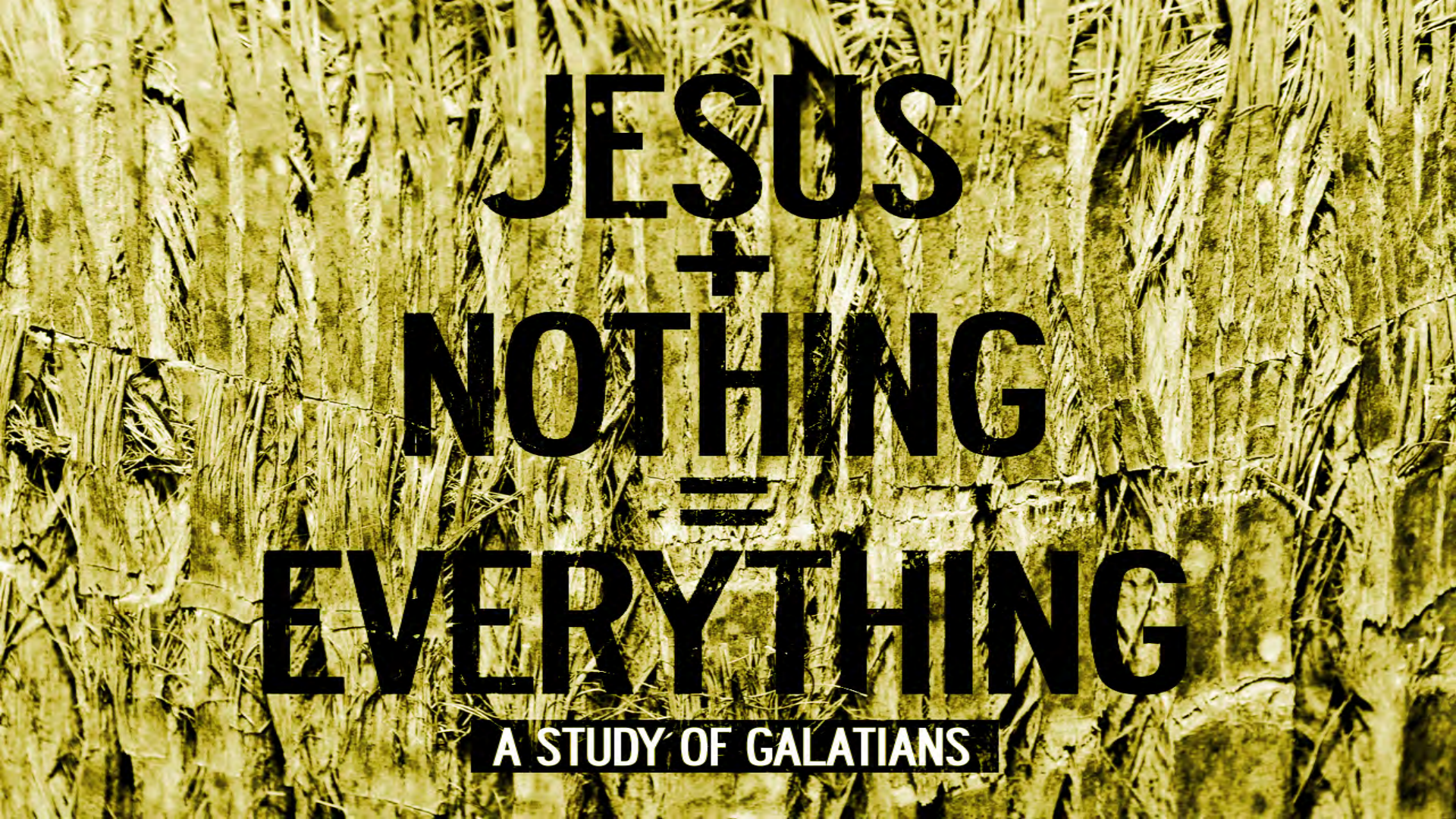
Gospel Application

Are you still trying to run the bases?

Gospel Application

Are you living like a son or a slave?

Are you willing to suffer for the ministry?



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A STUDY OF GALATIANS