



NUMBERS 14:1-19

“Ahh...the good, old days”

Yeah, right.

430 years enslaved (Ex. 12:40)

Bricks without straw? (Ex. 5)

Consider also Lot's wife - Gen. 19



THE WORK THAT GOD REQUIRES:

‘TIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU

Galatians 4:8-20



VSS. 8-11

Once again, a “remember who you are and Whose you are” moment

Enslaved is who you USED TO BE. You want to go back to that? (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

“Have I wasted my time?”
Gritty stuff. But Paul knows their peril.



VSS. 12-16

Paul's plea: "Become like me..."

One beggar telling another where to find bread.

Phil 3:2-9

"What happened to your joy?"

(John 17:13; Gal. 5:22)



“And what happened to our relationship?”

Compare vss. 13-15 with vs. 16

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

See Prov. 27:6



VSS. 17-18

Christ calls us to unity in Him; the Enemy loves to scatter

Be cautious of 'causes' and bandwagons. Zeal is good only to the extent that it serves a truly good purpose. Don't be wowed by zealousness that is unaccompanied by the goodness of God in Christ.



VSS. 19

“My dear children...” A bit of tenderness from a tough guy. Sounds more like John (John 13:33; 1 John)

“In the pains of childbirth” A sense of the depth of his intense desire to see these spiritual children grow to maturity in Christ (Romans 8:29; Eph. 4:13-16)



VS. 20

“I wish I could be with you now...”

Why? Because face to face is always better than a letter. Or a text.

Because his harsh tone was truly out of his deep love for them and his understanding of their peril...