

# Galatians 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

## Analysis

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**Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.** Paul identifies specific practices proving their drift to law-observance. "Ye observe" (paratēreisthe, παρατηρεῖσθε) means "carefully watch, scrupulously observe"—suggesting anxious compliance. "Days" (hēmeras, ἡμέρας) likely refers to Sabbaths and special holy days. "Months" (mēnas, μῆνας) probably means new moon festivals (Numbers 28:11-14). "Times" (kairous, καιρούς) could be appointed feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). "Years" (eniautous, ἐνιαυτούς) likely sabbatical years and jubilee.

These Mosaic calendar observances, commanded under the old covenant, were shadows pointing to Christ (Colossians 2:16-17). To insist on them after Christ's coming treated the shadow as superior to the substance. Paul isn't condemning voluntary observance for cultural reasons (Romans 14:5-6) but observance as necessary for acceptance with God or spiritual maturity. The Galatians were embracing these as requirements for full covenant membership, showing they'd bought the Judaizers' message. Their careful observance revealed anxious works-righteousness, not joyful freedom.

## Historical Context

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The Jewish liturgical calendar was elaborate: weekly Sabbaths, monthly new moons, annual festivals (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles), sabbatical years (every seventh year), jubilee (every fiftieth year). These marked covenant life and commemorated God's

redemptive acts. For Christians to observe them as necessary for righteousness was to return to elementary religion and deny Christ's sufficiency. Colossians 2:16-23 addresses similar issues with mystical asceticism and Jewish practices.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Do you relate to God through anxious observance of religious rules and calendars, or through confident faith in Christ?
2. How can you distinguish between voluntary practices that enhance devotion versus obligatory observances that enslave?
3. What contemporary Christian practices might parallel the Galatians' calendar observance—appearing spiritual but producing bondage?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡμέρας παρατηρεῖσθε καὶ μῆνας καὶ καιροὺς καὶ  
days Ye observe and months and times and  
G2250 G3906 G2532 G3376 G2532 G2540 G2532

ἐνιαυτούς

years  
G1763

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 14:5** (Parallel theme): One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

