

Paul had agonized for the Galatians to wrest them from the Devil in the first place. Now he is suffering once again as he seeks to deliver them from false teachers.

"Until Christ be formed in you" actually means "Until you have taken the form of Christ." Paul refers to their need for Christian maturity. Compare Ephesians 4:13 "growing up into the full stature of Christ." Perhaps this is why he refers to them as "my little children." They could not stand alone as yet. Just like little children who get in trouble when a mother is not around, the Galatians were getting into trouble during Paul's absence. They needed to grow up. The Christian who has reached maturity in Christ is not easily fooled by false teachers.

In verse 20 Paul lovingly longs to be in Galatia. He wishes to talk to them face to face so that his feelings might be better conveyed by his tone of voice.

Conclusion:

Paul here speaks to the Galatians as a loving parent to wayward children. He longs to have the relationship that they once rejoiced together. Much more he longs that the Galatians reject the false teachers working among them and grow up into mature Christians they should be.