

INTRODUCTION

Author: The Apostle Paul clearly wrote this book and uniquely penned it himself (6:11) because he typically dictated it and Luke and others wrote it down. That is why Paul's style sounds like it does, it was spoken.

Who are the Galatians: Galatia was a term used to describe a group of Celts who migrated from Gaul to Asia Minor or a province in Asia Minor.

Occasion:

- The Galatians after launching their Christian life by faith were now content to leave their journey of faith and begin a new voyage based on works.
- The problem stemmed from a group of Jewish false teachers who agitated the group against Paul and the gospel.
 - They preached a false gospel whereby Christians were required to be circumcised in order to be saved
- These agitators also made a direct personal attack against Paul himself in three ways:
 - First – Paul was a renegade who defied the superior apostles of Jerusalem (Peter)
 - Second – claimed that Paul and Peter were in dispute of whether Gentiles could actually be Christians.
 - Third – Paul used to preach circumcision in order to be saved but changed it to win more people over.
- This book is a vigorous attack against the gospel of works and a defense of the gospel of faith.
 - Paul's argument is that the law declares men guilty and imprisons them and faith sets men free to enjoy the liberty of Christ.
 - This Christian liberty is not license (lawlessness) rather it is the freedom to produce the fruits of righteousness through a spirit-led life.

This book stands as a Christian's manifesto of justification by faith when our sin deceived us into believing in our works to be accepted rather than Christ.

Key verses: MEMORIZE THEM

Galatians 2:20-21 It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**** CHRISTMAS BREAK DEVOTIONS: Read each chapter for 2 days**

REVIEW**Key verses: Galatians 2:20-21 Galatians 5:1****** CHRISTMAS BREAK DEVOTIONS: Read each chapter for 2 days**

Galatians leaving their journey of faith for a new venture of works based on false teachers instruction and leadership who discredit Paul's apostleship and authority.

Christians manifesto of justification

CHAPTER ONE**1. Greeting (v. 1-5) Introduction and summary of the book**

- What is Paul's explanation of his apostleship? *Divinely given apostleship*
- How does Paul greet the Galatian Christians? *Grace and Peace to you from God*
- In v. 3-5, how do we receive Grace and peace?
 - *He gave himself for our sins*
 - *He delivers us from this age*
 - *It happens according to his will*
 - *It is to him who gets the glory for this salvation*

2. No other Gospel (v. 6-10)

(v. 6) If they deserting Jesus who called them in grace to another gospel:

First what is the gospel of grace? Romans 5:8

Second, what then is a different gospel?

(v. 7) Paul calls this other gospel, not real and a distortion.

(v. 8) Why would Paul wish them accursed for preaching a different gospel?

(Doesn't sound very nice) *Leads people away from God and the truth* (Matthew 18:6)

(v. 10) Why do people invert gospels other than the gospel of grace?

For popularity of man's approval and pleasure.

Paul actually says that, if trying to please men you are not a servant of Christ? Why?

Rejecting the grace of God, which is the way of salvation not the approval of people.

Chapter 1:11-2:14

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

1. Paul called by God not by man (v. 11-24) READ

How does Paul show that he was called by God not man, in v. 11-17?

- Not man's gospel (source) (v. 11)
- Did not receive it from a man (manner of communication) (v. 12)
- Nor taught by a man
- Nor did he consult with anyone about after it was given to him. (v. 16)
- Nor did I go to Jerusalem for approval (v. 17)

Gospel is Given by God alone (v. 15-16)

- Echoes of Jeremiah 1:5 and Isaiah 49:1, 5, Psalm 58:3, psalm 71:6, Psalm 139:16
- Paul's apostleship is in conformity with the Old Testament tradition of the prophets
- *Why did God choose Paul in this passage? It pleased God*
- *What does Paul contrast his save grace against in the precious verses, v. 13-14?*
Violent sins and love of self-righteous religion and works
Read Luther's quote

2. Jerusalem authorities added nothing to Paul's authority (2:1-10) READ

- Three years after his conversion Paul visited with Peter in Jerusalem for 15 days.
- Fourteen years later, Paul was conferring with the Jerusalem apostles, not for approval or permission, but agreement.
- Paul's ministry is not to please the false brothers or the influential. (v. 4-6)
- Paul gospel ministry and grace given to Paul was visible to those spiritual leaders and confirming of Paul's call from God (v. 7)
- Paul added to the authority of the Jerusalem apostles: Fellowship extended by the pillars of the church and that the gentiles are to have the preached to them. (v. 8-9)
- Tell me about the significance of verse 10? Remember the poor.
 - Mark of a believer, reflects Christ, and is our help in understand the gospel given to us.

3. Paul's authority demonstrated by his challenge to Peter's error (v. 11-14) READ**Application**

1. Be humbled and encouraged by your call being from God and not yourself or someone else.
Romans 11:29 "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."
2. Our lives and Christians are to serve Jesus and be faithful to our personal ministry to the gospel and not to live or serve in a manner that seeks to please people, believers of a false gospel, or influential people.
3. Remember the poor in the living out your Christian life.

1. Justification by Faith (2:15-21)

- Christians are justified by faith not by works of the law. (2:15-16)
- As sinner, it is no longer I the sinner that lives. Through faith I live the life of Christ. (2:20-21)
- For Christians to turn to works to make themselves justified, Christ's death was of no purpose.

2. The Children also then seek perfection by faith

- Foolish Galatians, who bewitched you? (3:1)
 - Did you receive the Spirit by works or by faith? (3:2)
 - Having begun in the Spirit are you now perfected by the flesh (circumcision)? (3:3)
 - Faith comes by hearing. Example: Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. (3:6-7)
 1. God preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham
 2. Those of faith are blessed with Abraham.

3. Righteous shall live by faith

- Law puts us under a curse Read 3:10
- Living by the law is not a life of faith.
- Jesus redeemed us from the curse, by becoming the curse for us.

Chapter 5**1. Gospel of Grace sets us free from the bondage of the law (v. 1-12)**

- A. A Christian's position is freedom in Christ through grace
- Stand firm in the freedom you have (v. 1)
 - Falling away from grace (v. 4):
 - Accepting circumcision for justification make Christ of no advantage to you. (v. 2)
 - If you accept the law at one point is a fool's errand – because you must keep all of it.
 - a. If you are picking and choosing, you are a manipulating works.
 - Severed from Christ – those attempting to use the law as salvation justification.
- B. FYI: Legalism for salvation (unsaved error) and legalism for righteousness (saved error)
- C. A Christian's freedom
- Read verse 5, through the Spirit, by faith we eagerly wait for **righteousness**.
 - What visual picture does that put into your minds? Patiently waiting with passively
 - Argument: But we are to do good works as Christians!
 - Answer (v. 6): in Christ keeping the law or not doesn't ever count towards you, only faith working itself out through love.
 - **We do out of love, and passively wait for Christ to be our righteousness.**

Funny note: V. 12

2. Warning against antinomianism (V. 13-15)

- Purpose of freedom is to free people to genuinely love and serve God and people.
- Now, Jesus refers back to the law and its fulfillment: Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Law is not your enemy, but your guide or tutor in living out the freedom of salvation.

3. Gospel of Grace has set us free from sin's dominion (v. 16-26)

- v. 16-17: Walk in the Spirit (see v. 5, by faith) and you will fight off sin's temptations.
- Spirit and the sin in you are opposed, but the Spirit not reign's..... **TO HAVE FAITH IN IT!!**
 - Spirit's role is to keep you from doing sin – which is what you want to do.
 - That is why you must be immersed in the word of God, prayer, fellowship, worship, love, and service – otherwise you live as you wish.... Sinfully pursuing the live you desire for yourself.
- Living a life led by the spirit, is not under the law (legalism for righteousness)
 - Ex. As Christians we're not suppose to watch R rated movies
 - That is a statement of law = legalism for righteousness
 - Rather Christians are free to watch, but the question is love and service.
 - If it to satisfy my sinful desires, does it diminish the character of Christ in me, does it serve and love those around me in fellowship and witness?
 - To go or not go isn't about righteousness... but love and service to Christ and others.

Galatians 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Living Together As The Body Of Christ**Galatians 6:1 - 10**

1. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression,

a. you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Who is the spiritual one? (see the context 5:16-24)

b. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

c. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

What does Paul refer to here by burdens?

How does that fulfill the law of Christ? Giving of your life to others brothers & enemies

Some might think, "forget that I going to just serve myself and get what I can."

2. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

But let each one test his own work,

and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

Philippians 2:12 – Work out your salvation

1 Peter 1:10 – Make your call and election sure

Look at your work and compare it to Scripture and Christ not others

For each will have to bear his own load.

This someone can not do for you, or blame someone else.

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked,

for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

For the one who sows to his own flesh

will from the flesh reap corruption,

but the one who sows to the Spirit

will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

God's not drawn into your little games of self-deception and the deception of others.

Your life and its fruit are evident and give testimony to your heart.

3. And let us not grow weary of doing good,

for in due season we will reap,

if we do not give up.

What can we learn about doing good? Doing Good is wearisome and hard.

How does this relate to the section above? The fakers will fall to the side and fade.

The true will remain, continue fighting

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,

and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Not just those who give us what we want, and serve out needs. Be Christ to all.

Living out Gal. 2:20-21 and 5:1 by bearing true fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5:22-33