

## The Book of Galatians

Study Guide-Chapter 1

By Tiffani Davis

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## Book of Galatians' Bible Study Schedule

Galatians	Date
Intro	Wed, Jan 10
vv. 1:1-10	Fri., Jan 12
Communion	Mon., Jan. 15
vv. 1:11-24	Wed., Jan 17
vv. 2:1-10	Fri., Jan 19
Communion	Mon., Jan. 22
vv. 2:11-21	Wed., Jan 24
vv. 3:1-14	Fri., Jan 26
Communion	Mon., Jan. 29
vv. 3:15-26	Wed., Jan 31
vv. 3:27-29; 4:1-7	Fri., Feb 02
Communion	Mon., Feb. 5
vv. 4:8-20	Wed., Feb 7
Vv. 4:21-31	Fri., Feb. 9
Communion	Mon., Feb. 12
vv. 5:1-15	Wed., Feb 14
vv. 5:16-26	Fri, Feb 16
Communion	Mon., Feb. 19
vv. 6:1-10	Wed Feb 21
vv. 11-18	Fri., Feb. 23

Please note this study guide is meant to be supplemental material to help you study Galatians. The guide may not be followed by the morning Bible study facilitator. Please feel free to share any of your answers or questions from the guide on the line. Remember we are learning from each other so don't hesitate sharing what God is showing you throughout the study!

### Book of Galatians Outline

-Greeting (Chpt. 1:1-5)

-Introduction (Chpt. 1:6-10)

-Paul's defense of his Apostleship and the Gospel (Chpts. 1:11-2:10)

-Freedom from the law (Chpt. 2:11-21) -Justified by Faith in Christ (Chpt. 3:1-9)

-The Promise (Chpt. 3:10-26)

-Heirs and Sonship (Chpts. 3:27-4: 1-7)

-Don't return to the Tutor (Chpt. 4:8-20)

-Two Covenants (4:21-31)

-Freedom (Chpts. 5:1-6:10) -Conclusion (Chpt. 6:11-18)

## Facts About The Book of Galatians

Called the Magna Carta of Christian Liberty.

#### Frequently used words:

The law (31xs)

Flesh (18xs)

Spirit (15xs)

Faith (21XS)

The promise (10xs)

Bondage (11xs)

Likely written around AD 47-48

See Gal. 2:10 -&

Acts 11:27-30

5<sup>th</sup> of Paul's 13 Letters

Six Chapters

149 verses

Galatians The Christian's Declaration of Independence.

## Major Theme

We must be steadfast and immovable in our faith.

"The righteous shall live by faith."
Galatians 3:11

Any compromise or mixture of human effort is heresy.

### Introduction

Author Recipient

Purpose Date

# Paul The Author Of Galatians

Mentions himself by name twice – Galatains 1:1; 5:2 2.

Became known as the "apostle to the Gentiles" - Acts 9:15.

Most modern critics concede that Galatians is truly Pauline.

# The Church of Galatia The Recipient of the Book of Galatians

Ethnography

Used to describe the northern part

minor

of central Asia

Geographically

Included Antioch, Pontus, Phrygia, Derbe, & Lycaonia

## Date Of The Book of Galatians

#### North Galatia Theory

 Dates the book between A.D. 53-57. Believes Galatians was written to churches in northcentral Asia Minor, where Gauls had settled when they invaded the area in the third century B.C.

#### South Galatia Theory

 Dates the book around 48 A.D. and before the Counsel of Jerusalem described in Acts 15. Included not only the ethnic Gauls of the north, but several cities in the south.
 Supporting scriptures included Gal 2; Acts 11:30 & 12:25.

## Most scholars have come to favor the South Galatia Theory.

#### Additional reading on this subject:

https://bible.org/article/date-and-destination-galatians

https://www.evidenceunseen.com/bible-difficulties-2/nt-difficulties/romans-2/gal-21-10-is-this-passage-referring-to-the-council-of-jerusalem-in-acts-15-or-is-it-something-else/

## Purpose of The Book of Galatians

To defend the Gospel against the Judaizers who had introduced a false gospel to Gentiles in Galatia.

Chapter
1:1-5

Greetings

### v. 1 Paul, an apostle—not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead—

It was customary during this time to identify oneself at the beginning of a letter. While Paul follows this pattern, he does so more abruptly (compare to his other epistles). Paul immediately identifies himself as an apostle. Apostle (*apostolos*) means "one who has been sent".

Why do you think Paul did that? What is revealed about Paul's apostleship in Acts 9:1-22?

Who sent Paul to be an apostle?

### vv. 2 — and all the brothers who are with me: To the churches of Galatia.

Paul and Peter make mention of these brethren in 1 Cor. 16:1 and 1 Pet. 1:1

Paul spread the "good news" of the gospel of Jesus Christ in Galatia, in Asia Minor which was the southern region of the Roman providence during that time. This epistle is written to the churches in Galatia and was intended to be circulated and read aloud throughout the region.

What does Acts 13-14 tell us about Paul's mission? What were some of the cities mentioned?

vv.3-5 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What similarities do you see in Paul's description of Jesus's death in 1Tim. 2:6; Eph. 5:25; & Titus 2:14?

How does Paul's description of the gospel result in God being glorified?

vv.4-5 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What similarities do you see in Paul's description of Jesus's death in 1Tim. 2:6; Eph. 5:25; & Titus 2:14?

How does Paul's description of the gospel result in God being glorified?

**Chapter**1:6-10

No other Gospel

## v. 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

Paul notes his amazement of the Gentiles not just turning away from the gospel, but turning away so soon after he shared it. They didn't turn away from an idea but a person, Jesus Christ. Warning, to turn away from the gospel and even parts of the Word is to turn away from Jesus Himself.

Paul continues with the facts of the gospel and the uncompromising statement that <u>there is only one gospel</u>. This was necessary since there were people distorting the gospel who were called Judaizers. The Judaizers tried to impose Jewish customs and traditions on the Gentiles.

Read Acts 15:1-21. What consensus did the apostles reach?

V.	7 not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are
	troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

What three things does Paul say about the different gospel?

The Gentiles of Paul's days weren't the only ones exposed to false teachers. Read Ex. 32:8 and think about believers today. What similarities do you see? Why do you think it can be tempting to follow false teachers?

vv. 8-9 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him.

Paul does not mince words. He made it clear that anyone preaching a different gospel is cursed and their false gospel rejected. His response is a far cry from believers today who refuse to take a position when hearing so called pastors and prophets make a mockery of the gospel. They often misquote Matt. 7:1 to justify their silence. While we aren't supposed to pronounce God's judgment on someone, declaring people righteous or not, we should have discernment about sin.

Read Matt. 7:1-5. What is Jesus teaching us? Consider those verses and Galatians 1:8-9, how should we respond today to false teachers and the false gospels they teach?

vv. 10 For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Paul's servitude to Christ did not come without opposition and personal loss. Are you concerned with being a servant of Christ more than pleasing people? How far are you willing to follow Christ? Is there something or someone you find it difficult to let go of to follow Christ? If so, began to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to release your grip.

**Chapter 1.71-24** 

The Origin's of Paul's Gospel

vv. 11-12 For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

One of the arguments of the false teachings that infiltrated the churches in Galatia was that Paul was not a real apostle. Paul was not one of the original twelve, but he was given authority to teach the gospel. Read Acts 9:1-19. Where did Paul's authority come from? Why was mentioning this important?

vv. 13-14 For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

Read Acts 8:1-3;26:9. Why do you think Paul reminded the Galatians about his opposition to Jesus and his credentials?

What is your testimony about coming to know Christ as Lord and savior? How can your testimony help someone else?

vv. 15—20 But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

Paul's confidence in his identity was not based on what man said, but who God said he was. How important is that? If God has called you, then you must focus on His voice and no other so you can run with the vision He's given you.

Paul also noted when he received his calling, he did not run to men to validate him. It was not until three years after Paul's conversion that he met with Peter (Cephas) and James, and even then, it wasn't for validation. Read Acts 9:22, how does this show Paul was taught by revelation from Jesus, not man?

vv. 21-24 Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches that are in Christ. They simply kept hearing, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Paul continued to use his testimony to illustrate why the Judaizers were wrong about him. People in the role of an apostle had seen Jesus and had been sent by Him. The Judaizers argued Paul was trained by the other apostles. His testimony proved them wrong. Even after meeting with the apostles, Paul went to Syria and Cilicia away from the other apostles. Paul had enough contact with the apostles to show they agreed with him, but not enough to be his teacher.

What does Paul's firsthand experience with Jesus teach us about the importance of having our own experience and relationship with Him?

How do you pursue Jesus? How would you rate your commitment to this pursuit?

