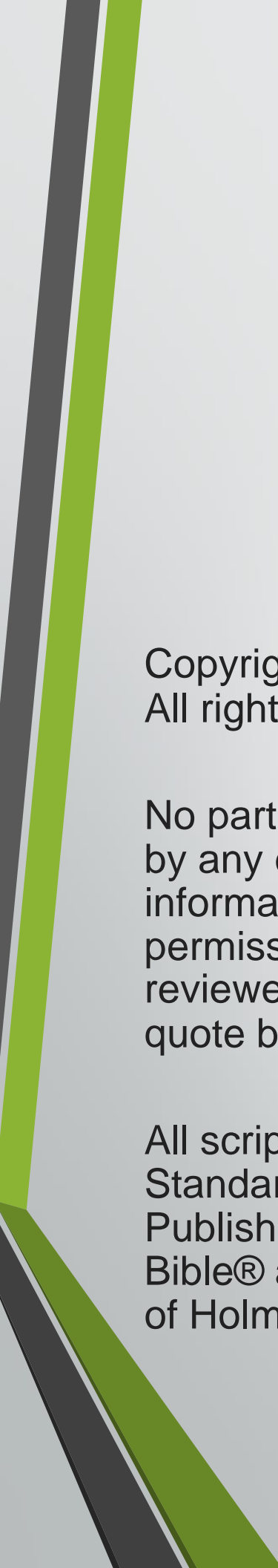




The Book of Galatians

Study Guide-Chapter 5

By Tiffani Davis



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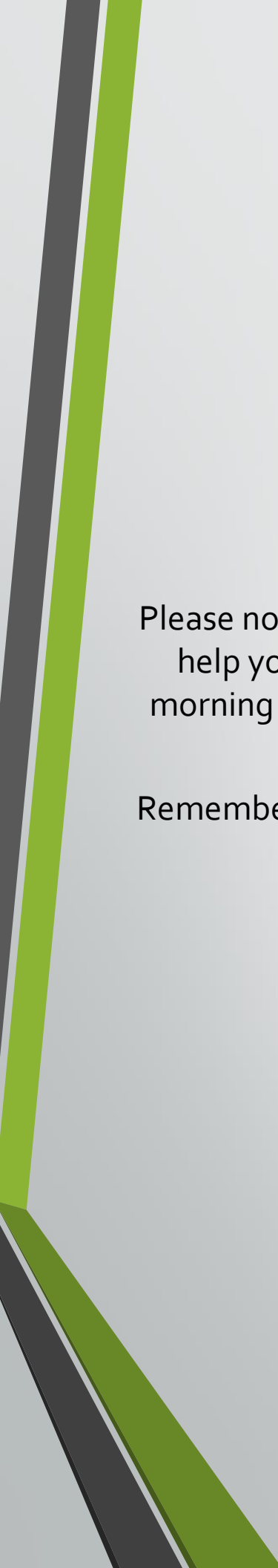
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Book of Galatians' Bible Study Schedule

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)



Chapter Five

*This study guide uses The Christian
Standard Bible*

vv. 1-3 For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm, then, and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery. Take note! I, Paul, am telling you that if you get yourselves circumcised, Christ will not benefit you at all. Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to do the entire law.

We are reminded that through faith we are set free from sin. Now we must *stand firm* in the message of the gospel and not accept false teachings that would put *a yoke of slavery* on us again. Returning to the law is rejecting Christ for the rules of the law. The focus is on rules rather than relationship.

Read Acts 15:10. What does Paul say about the yoke and people's ability to keep the law?

vv. 4-6 You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace. For we eagerly await through the Spirit, by faith, the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything; what matters is faith working through love.

Adding works to faith in Christ will yield different results than one is hoping to have. In fact, it will have the adverse effect of alienating them from Christ because we *have fallen from grace*. This falling is choosing legalism over grace. Why do you think people fall into legalism?

The spotlight again is on faith. It's the essence of our faith and what allows us to remain in Christ. Circumcision nor uncircumcision matters; only faith working through love.

Despite the importance believers put on circumcision, it's neither good nor bad, and it won't lead to righteousness. Read Romans 2:25-29. What does it tell us about circumcision?

vv. 7-9 You were running well. Who prevented you from being persuaded regarding the truth? This persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough.

Like many believers, they started strong, excited to share their new faith with other people. However, something happened, and they veered from the path they were on. Paul essentially asked, what happened? Who tripped them up from following the truth that had been made so clear to them?

Again, Paul displayed his boldness by calling out a specific Judaizer, perhaps a leader- *who prevented you from being persuaded?* This false teacher was the one leading them astray, not from *the one who calls you*- Jesus.

Paul uses a familiar analogy to illustrate the danger of deviating even a little from the truth. The deviation is like *a little leaven* in a lump of dough; even a tiny amount doesn't remain isolated. It will infect the entire loaf. Read, John 4:1, Matt. 7:15; and 2 Peter 2:1. what warning do these scriptures give about false teachers?

v. 10 I myself am persuaded in the Lord you will not accept any other view. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty.

Despite the dire warnings Paul gave, he still had confidence the Galatians would not accept the false teachings and that the person responsible for spreading the infection would pay the penalty. We learn in scriptures like Deu. 18:20 and Ez. 13:9 the penalty for false prophets was death because of the seriousness of the matter. They should be aware of the penalty, but we must be on guard to recognize them also. What charge are believers given in Matt. 7:15-20, Matt. 16:11-12, 1 Tim 4:1-6 and 2 Tim. 4:3-4?

vv. 11-12 Now brothers and sisters, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. I wish those who are disturbing you might also let themselves be mutilated!

Verse 12 suggests Paul was addressing a rumor that he was teaching the necessity of circumcision. The rumor may be the way the false teachers gained acceptance by the Galatians. He sets the record straight that he taught no such thing. Paul goes a step further and says he wished those who were pushing circumcision should mutilate (castrate) themselves. While this may sound extreme coming from him, the practice wouldn't have been foreign to the Galatians since pagan priests were often castrated.

Have you ever felt bound by practices instituted by man? If so, what were they, and how were you able to break free from them?

vv. 13-15 For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

Paul is repetitive with the sentiment that the Christian life is a life of liberty. Legalists argue that liberty will be used as an *opportunity for the flesh*, and he warns the Galatians against using freedom in Christ as an opportunity to sin.

Paul continues to explain that using liberty as an opportunity to sin can be curtailed by *serving one another through love* and loving *your neighbor as yourself*. Serving one another is in opposition to the flesh, because the flesh is selfish and wants people to conform to its selfish ways (Lev. 19:18 and Matt. 22:39). Failing to do so is a danger to the body.

What does James 4:1-3 tell us about the root and results of quarrels in the body of Christ?

vv. 16-18 I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Paul begins wrapping up his message with an easy-to-understand summary: when you walk in the spirit instead of trying to live by the law, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Grace from God allows us to walk in the spirit because of the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit who is in us (Gal. 4:6). Our reliance must be on the Holy Spirit, not self-reliance on ourselves. Read Isa. 11:2-3. How is the Holy Spirit described? Why is it important to learn who the Holy Spirit is? Learn more about the [Holy Spirit](#).

vv. 19-21 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul lists some of the external signs of the flesh at work. The list is not exhaustive; instead, he gives examples of sins found in familiar categories—sensual, religious, interpersonal and social. No matter what category the sin falls into, Paul has warned the Galatians before and he does it here again, that *those who practice* (*prasso-* to perform repeatedly or habitually) *such things will not inherit the kingdom of God*. Exhibiting these behaviors is an indication a person is rebellious against God.

The grace of God was meant to change our lives. A person who remains the same after professing their belief in Jesus Christ may need to reevaluate their belief. Moreover, our heart change should make us hate sin like God does and run from it. Read 1 John 3:5-9. What does Jesus tell us about sin? What are the characteristics of those born of God?

The kingdom of God describes His spiritual rule over the universe, Christ's rule on earth, and an actual place. It's also used synonymously with the kingdom of Heaven. Read Ps. 103:19, Dan. 4:3, Jn. 18:36, and 1 Cor. 6:9. What do these scriptures tell you about the Kingdom of God?

vv. 22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the spirit. Similarly to a narrow gate leading to righteousness and a broad gate leading the way to destruction (Matt. 7:13), the work of the flesh is plural, but the fruit of the spirit is singular.

There is no law against the fruit, and our relationship with Christ should cause us to submit our will to His, so we will follow Him. If you believe the Word, then you believe that no matter how great the passion or desire you might be dealing with, you can overcome it. This assurance shouldn't cause you to be conceited (this would be a trick of the enemy) to cause us to stumble and create friction among believers.

Read 2 Cor. 10:5, Ex. Deu. 30:15-16, 2 Tim. 2:15, James 1:22. What can we learn from those scriptures about how to crucify the flesh?

