

Ch 1-2 Why should anyone trust this man Paul?

Trouble with the Churches in Galatia 1:1-11

1. How does Paul identify himself (1:1-2)?
2. Identify several key truths conveyed in his greeting (1:3-5).
3. A problem has occurred (1:6-7)
 - a. Paul's reaction:
 - b. The time-frame:
 - c. The culprits:
4. (1:10) Being a servant of Christ means:

"Paul is just a nobody!" vs
"One who is directly sent
by Christ"

_____ of _____ as opposed to _____ of _____.

_____ as opposed to _____.

5. Why is it so dangerous to lose sight of this truth?

Paul: Not Sent by Man but by Jesus

- (1:11-17) Evidence 1: Paul was not one of the twelve apostles. Immediately upon his conversion he did not _____ any _____ nor did he go to _____
- Why is this significant?
- How do you suppose Paul felt as he started his ministry and mission work? How do you think the people he served felt about him?

An Inferior Message?

- (1:23-24) Evidence 2 Finally after three years Paul met Peter for a few days. Yet he remained personally unknown to any of the churches in Judea. Despite such little contact, how did the Judean churches assess Paul and his preaching?
- (2:6) How did Paul view the twelve apostles in relation to his own ministry? By what standard should we evaluate the importance of our ministry?
- (2:7) How did the leaders in Jerusalem view Paul's ministry? By what standard should we value the ministry of others?
- (2:7-10) Paul had same _____, just different _____.

A Reoccurring Trouble

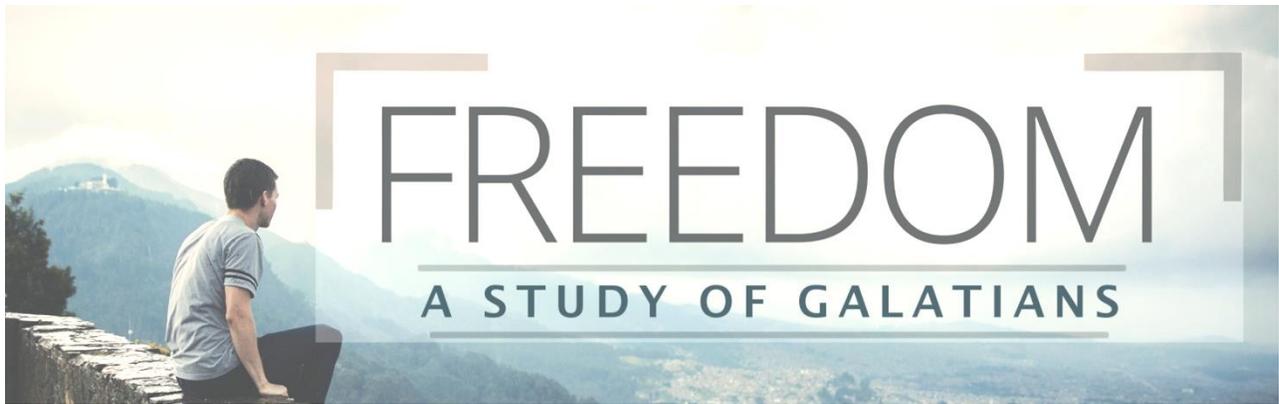
11. (2:11) What was Peter's error? Who did he fear? Why might this be? (cf 1:10)

12. (2:12) Brainstorm: What are some modern parallels?

13. (2:13ff) What did the error of one influential man do to the rest of the congregation in Antioch? What truth does this show us?

14. What did Paul do at that time? Explain the significance of what Paul said. Characterize Paul on the basis of this story and 1:6-10.
 - a) 2:14 Peter's hypocrisy
 - b) 2:15-16 serves as a summary of chapters 3-4
 - c) 2:17-21 serves as a summary of chapters 5-6

WHAT IMPORTANT LESSONS DID YOU PICK UP IN THESE CHAPTERS ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL AND THE WAY ERRORS CREEP INTO THE CHURCH? OTHER IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS?



Ch 3-4 How does the sinner become acceptable before God?

By observing the law or by believing?

1. On a scale of 1-10 rate the level of Paul's emotions at the start of this chapter. Explain.
2. (3:1-2) Paul's message and primary emphasis:
3. (3:3-5) God confirmed his message with miracles for the Galatians. Why might we not see that very much today?
4. (3:6-9) A lesson from Abraham regarding faith. (confer Genesis 15:1-5) Who is included in this lesson?
5. Consider: Why would Paul be able to make such a powerful and meaningful argument by pointing back to Abraham?

"In the Mosaic Law we trust" vs
"Righteous through faith in Christ"

What about the law?

6. (3:10-14) What does the law leave us with? What about Christ?

7. (3:17-18) *An inheritance was promised* to Abraham long beforehand. Therefore, the law doesn't do away with the promise.

8. (3:19-22) Four weaknesses of the Mosaic law.
 - a) It was not God's primary message; rather, it was _____ .
 - b) It was added not because it could give righteousness, but because of _____ .
 - c) It was meant only for a limited time, only until _____ .
 - d) It required a _____ because it was a two-way agreement.

9. (3:23-24) Explain why the Mosaic law was necessary.

10. (3:25) Consider how Paul says ancient Israel was a like a child under a "guardian." We are no longer under supervision of the Mosaic Law in the New Testament Church. What does that mean God now considers us?

11. (3:26-29) Who are we now? _____
How? _____

Why? _____

Sons and heirs through faith in Jesus!

12. (4:1-7) Paul illustrates the concept of the Old Testament Jews waiting for their inheritance. Minors have guardians and trustees over them until they are ready for their inheritance as adults. Read 4:4-5 and expound on these verses. What did receiving the inheritance depend on?

13. (4:8-11) The non-Jewish Galatians were enslaved by a system of work-righteousness before they came to faith. They too became sons of God and heirs of eternal life through faith. (3:26-29, 4:4-5) What is happening to these sons and heirs?

14. (4:15) How much did the Galatian Christians first love Paul? Why? What now has stolen the their joy?

15. Galatians 4:17 The Judaizers / circumcision group were zealous to win over the Gentile Galatians to observing the Mosaic Laws. "Live right and be saved!" Can you think of any modern parallels?

16. (4:19-20) What can we learn from Paul about dealing with people straying from Christ?

An allegory?

The only revealed 'allegory' in Scripture. The word "figuratively" in 4:24 is the word we use for allegory, a story in which each event/person represents something. However, unlike most allegory, Paul does not deny it was referring to real people/events.

17. Paul's point: We are not children of the _____ woman, born outside of the promise and inheritance, but of the _____ woman. We are _____ according to God's promise.

Galatians 4:29

*"At that time the son born in the ordinary way
persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit.
It is the same now."*

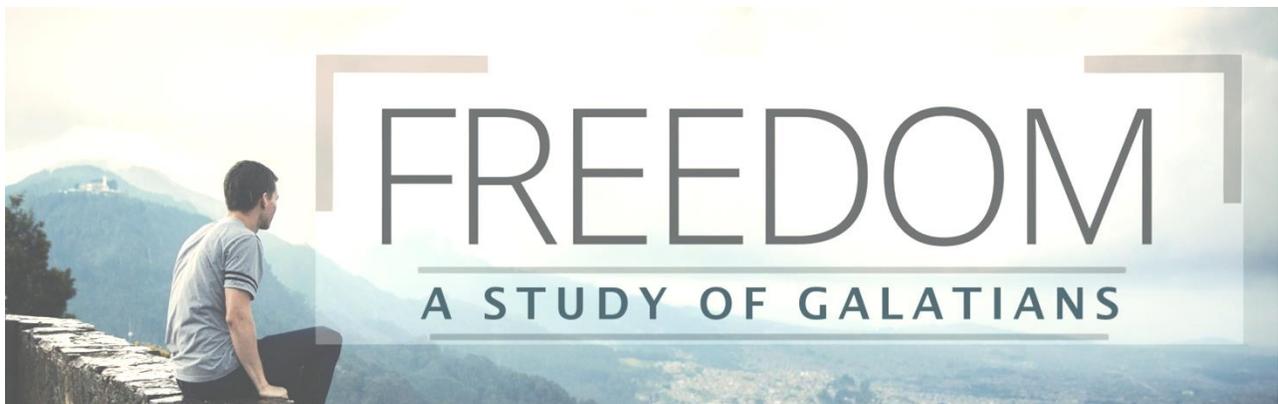
18. Do you ever feel persecuted by those who rely on observing the law?

WHAT IMPORTANT LESSONS DID YOU PICK UP IN THESE CHAPTERS?

WHAT HAVE YOU DETERMINED CAN STEAL A CHRISTIAN'S JOY?

WHAT IS A GOOD WAY TO EXPLAIN SALVATION THROUGH FAITH ALONE?

OTHER IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS?



CH 5-6 HOW IS THE JUSTIFIED SINNER TO LIVE BEFORE GOD?

Leave behind the cross, leave behind peace

1. (5:1-12) What is “the offense of the cross” in verse 11?

“Sinners need the law for proper conduct” vs.
“Faith frees the believer for cheerful service”
2. What does Galatians 5:12 say about how strongly Paul wants to hold to “the offense of the cross”?
3. (5:9) “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” Describes how a teaching such as one minor requirement like circumcision can do great amount of harm. Apply this truth to principles of church fellowship and what we practice in our synod.
4. (5:15) What is capable of greatly harming a Christian congregation? What is the root cause of this problem (5:13)?

But don't sinners need the law for proper conduct?

4. (5:16-18) Describe the Christian according to these verses.

5. (5:19-26) List the things that contrast in these verses. Note care-fully how they differ.

6. What purpose does the law serve in 5:19-21? Explain how Paul, (previously saying works aren't a part of our justification) now can say "works of the sinful nature" leave us out God's kingdom.

7. (5:22-26) What brings appropriate living in believers? Explain in your own words why this makes you feel true freedom:

8. (5:24) Note what we have done with our sinful nature since we belong to Christ. (Cf. Gal 2:20)

9. (5:25) By what do we now live? Explain how that changes the how and why of the way we live.

Not only freed from_____

but freed for_____

Faith not only frees FROM demands of the law but frees FOR cheerful service to God

Don't Abuse Liberty from Law as License for Sin

10. (6:1) How do we do "maintenance work" on our sanctified living? Identify three important truths for dealing with sin in this verse.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

11. Paul does consider himself under law, but it is under the "law of Christ." How does he define that law?

12. (6:3-5) What should be our focus and standard when looking at our own way of living?

13. (6:7-8) *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows"* Apply this to the life of a Christian who is reverting to living according to lawlessness and "works of the flesh."

Our Boast of Freedom in Christ!

14. (6:12) Why do some people emphasize the keeping of the law as necessary for Justification?

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. –Galatians 6:14

15. (6:15) Outward things don't mean anything. What does? (Compare with 2 Cor 5:17, Gal 5:6)

16. What was Paul wrongly accused of and misunderstood to be preaching? (See Acts 21:21) Based on this letter and what you read in 1 Cor 7:18, what was he in fact teaching?

17. Recall how the letter opened with a defense of his apostleship. What does Paul add at the end regarding his authenticity as an apostle? Why might “the marks of Jesus” and other similar things cause us to look down on a faithful servant of Christ instead of honoring that person.

18. (6:18) Despite the presence of those who teach errors, Paul remained confident in the Spirit's working. (see also 6:1, 5:10,13)

19. Luther felt that he was fighting the same battle with Rome which Paul had fought with the Judaizers. Explain the connection.
20. Scan through the letter to identify some key verses. Which verses would you consider worth dedicating to memory? For what use would you turn to the letter to the Galatians today?

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. –Galatians 5:1

Explain this statement.