

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 1: GALATIANS

Class Schedule

- Session 1: Galatians
- Session 2: Ephesians
- Session 3: Philippians
- Session 4: Colossians
- Session 5: 1 Thessalonians

"The Epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. I have betrothed myself to it. It is my Katie - it is my wife." – Martin Luther

BACKGROUND

- **Author:**

 - **Recipients:**

 - **Date:**

 - **Occasion:**

 - **Form:**
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I. Introduction: Desertion from Paul's Gospel is Desertion from the Gospel (1:1-2:21)

A. Greeting: Paul's Apostolic Authority (1:1-5)

B. Problem Explained: Desertion from the Gospel (1:6-10)

C. Paul's Gospel Derived from God, Not People (1:11-2:21)

1. Thesis: Source of His Gospel Was Revelation (1:11-12)
2. Thesis Support (1:13-2:21)
 - a. His Past Hostility (1:13-14)
 - b. His Call from God (1:15-17)
 - c. His Relative Obscurity in Judea (1:18-24)
 - d. Recognition of Paul's Authority by Pillars (2:1-10)
 - e. Rebuke of Peter Substantiates Paul's Authority (2:11-21)
 - Rebuke (2:11-14)
 - Transition: The Nature of the Gospel (2:15-21)

II. Paul's Gospel Defended from Experience and Scripture (3:1-4:11)

A. Argument from Experience: Reception of Spirit by Means of Faith, Not Works (3:1-5)

B. Argument from Scripture: Blessing of Abraham by Faith (3:6-14)

1. Members of Abraham's Family by Faith (3:6-9)
 2. Curse of Law Removed Only in Christ (3:10-14)
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C. Argument from Salvation History: Priority of Abrahamic Covenant and Temporary Nature of Mosaic Covenant (3:15–4:11)

1. Addition of Law Does Not Nullify Promise to Abraham (3:15–25)
 - a. Interim Nature of Mosaic Covenant (3:15–18)
 - b. The Purpose of the Law (3:19–25)
2. Sons of God Are Abraham's Offspring (3:26–29)
3. Argument from Slavery to Sonship (4:1–7)
4. The Folly of Reverting to the Law (4:8–11)

III. A Call to Freedom from the Law and Freedom in the Spirit (4:12–6:10)

A. Live in Freedom from the Law: Argument from Friendship (4:12–20)

B. Stand in Freedom: Argument from Allegory (4:21–5:1)

C. Resist the Dangerous Message of Bondage (5:2–12)

1. It Involves the Requirement of Circumcision (5:2–6)
2. Its Perpetrators Will Be Judged (5:7–12)

D. Live Out Freedom in the Spirit (5:13–6:10)

1. Freedom Expressed in Love (5:13–15)
2. Living by the Spirit instead of the Flesh (5:16–24)
3. Caring for One Another by the Spirit (5:25–6:5)
4. Doing Good by the Spirit (6:6–10)

IV. Final Summary (6:11–18)

—Thomas R. Schreiner, *Galatians*, 58–59

KEY THEOLOGICAL TERMS & THEMES

- The true gospel of Jesus Christ (1:6–15)
- Justification by grace through faith, not by adherence law (2:15–21; 3:10–14)
- Adoption (4:4–7)
- Holy Spirit

GOSPEL APPLICATION

“No letter makes as clear as this one does the importance of living out all the implications of salvation through the cross.” –D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, 301.

- Resist gospel drift (1:6-10)
 - Treasure Christian freedom (5:1–15).
 - Love one another (5:6, 13-14, 22; 6:1-5, 10).
 - Walk in holiness (personally and in community) (5:16–6:10)
 - Endure as a Christian (6:7-10)
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