

# GALATIANS

## Power of Unity: Abiding in the Church

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

– Galatians 5:6



# What about the BIBLE?

- The purpose of revelation is nothing less than the **transformation of human** lives.
- Your contact with the Bible **should be changing you**. If it isn't, then something is drastically wrong with the way you are going about it
- This is a living book with a **living message** which, when it touches human life, begins to transform it and make it over.
- Now, it **takes the entire book** to do the whole job, -- in order that we might see what it has to say and how it says it.

# Last week...

## Session Goal:

- When we are justified, the way we act with people and God changes.

# Journey Through Galatians

Overview    March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

**Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)**

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)

# Let's get started...

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "freedom"?
2. When do you most value or want freedom?



# This week...

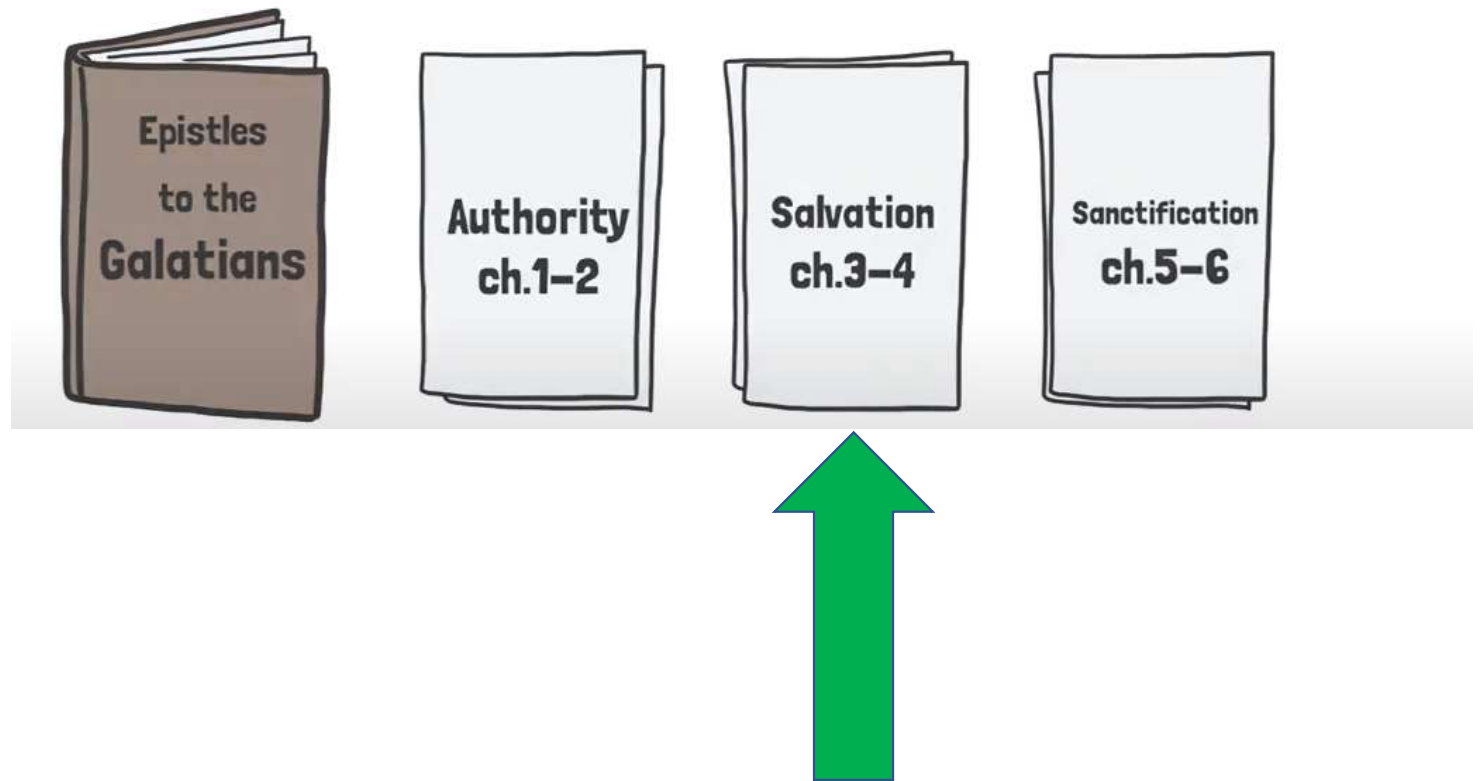
## Session Goal:

- This week's objective is to understand the **freedom** that justification in Christ affords us as Christ-followers; the **relationship between law and faith**, and what it means to be an obedient and free people of God.

# This week...

- In this session, Paul discusses the giving of the promise to Abraham, a story found in Genesis 12 and 15.
- Plan for covenant with Jesus was the bring about freedom and peace for all nations.

# This week...









## Galatians 3:1-11 – In Summary

Apostle Paul addresses the Galatian Christians who had fallen into the **trap of legalism**, believing that they needed to keep the Jewish law and customs in order to be justified before God. In this passage, Paul **appeals to their experience of receiving the Holy Spirit** and reminds them that they received it by faith and not by works.

## Galatians 3:1-3

1 You **foolish Galatians!** Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was **clearly portrayed as crucified.**

2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the **works** of the law, or by **believing** what you heard?

3 Are you so **foolish?** After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

# Galatians 3 verse 1 (In vv 1-14, Paul gives five truths the Galatians were not thinking through.)

First, they were not thinking through the **crucifixion**:

(Gal 3:1).

Second, they were not thinking through their **reception of the Holy Spirit**:

(Gal 3:2-3).

Third, they were not thinking through the basis of the **miracles they had seen**:

(Gal 3:5).

Fourth, they were not thinking through the **doctrine of justification**:

(Gal 3:6-9).

Fifth, they were not thinking through the **function of the Law**:

(Gal 3:10-14).

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## Galatians 3:4-6

4 Have you experienced so much in vain—  
if it really was in vain?

5 So again I ask, does God give you his  
**Spirit** and **work** miracles among you by  
the works of the law, or by your **believing**  
what you heard?

# Galatians 3:7-9

6 So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.



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Genesis 12: 1-3

*1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.*

*2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

Genesis 18: 18-19

*18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.*

*19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”*

# Galatians 3:10-11

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

11 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."

*Deuteronomy 27:26 "Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"*

*Habakkuk 2: 4 "See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—*

-Judgement of the unrighteous

# Galatians 3:15-23 - The Law and Promise

- Paul begins by using an analogy to explain that **God's promise to Abraham** was made directly to him and his offspring, and that the **law, which came later, does not nullify or add** to that promise. (Galatians 3:16)
- Paul argues that the **law was added because of transgressions** and was intended to serve as a temporary measure until the coming of Christ.
- Paul then explains that the law was given through angels to Moses as a mediator, and not directly from God. He emphasizes that the **law was not intended to bring life or justification, but rather to reveal sin and serve as a tutor** to lead people to Christ. (Galatians 3:19)
- Overall, Galatians 3:15-23 emphasizes the **temporary nature of the law** and its role in pointing people towards faith in Christ. Paul argues that the law was not intended to be a means of salvation, but rather a tutor that leads to Christ. He emphasizes the universal nature of salvation through faith in Christ and the elimination of distinctions between people based on race, social status, or gender.

# Questions

## Team Iconium

- How does Paul use the example of Abraham to make his argument against the necessity of observing the Jewish law?

## Team Derby

- Describe Paul's conflict resolution strategies in the Book of Galatians?

## Team Lystra

- In what ways can legalism be a danger to the Christian faith, and how can we guard against it?

## Team Antioch

- How should we deal with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus?

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# How does Paul use the example of Abraham to make his argument against the necessity of observing the Jewish law?

- In the book of Galatians, Paul uses the example of Abraham to **argue against the necessity of observing the Jewish law**. Paul highlights that Abraham was justified by faith, and not by observing the law. He points out that the promise to Abraham was given by God and that it was based on faith, not on works of the law.
- Paul explains that the law was given much later, and that it **cannot nullify or add to the promise that God had given to Abraham**. Paul emphasizes that the promise was not given to Abraham and his offspring through the law, but through faith in God's promise.
- Furthermore, Paul argues that the **law was added because of transgressions** and was intended to serve as a **temporary measure** until the coming of Christ. He emphasizes that the law was not intended to be a means of salvation, but rather a tutor that leads to Christ.
- Through his use of Abraham as an example, Paul emphasizes the superiority of faith over works of the law. He argues that the **promise to Abraham was fulfilled through Jesus Christ** and that those who have faith in Christ receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. Paul's argument emphasizes the **centrality of faith in Christ for salvation and the temporary nature of the law**.

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# Describe Paul's conflict resolution strategies in the Book of Galatians?

Primary conflict in the book: Judaizers vs Paul

- One strategy that Paul uses is to appeal to his **authority** as an apostle.
- Another strategy that Paul uses is to **appeal to the Galatians' experience** of the Holy Spirit. He reminds them that they received the Spirit through faith, not by works of the law. By emphasizing their own experience
- Paul also engages in **direct confrontation with the Judaizers**. He challenges their message and exposes its flaws, arguing that it is a distortion of the true gospel.
- In addition, Paul uses **persuasive language and rhetorical strategies** to appeal to the Galatians' **emotions and beliefs**.
- Overall, Paul's approach to conflict resolution in the Book of Galatians is **multifaceted**. He appeals to his authority, the Galatians' experience, confronts the opposing views, and uses persuasive language and rhetorical strategies to persuade the Galatians to accept his message.



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- How should we deal with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus?

# In what ways can legalism be a danger to the Christian faith, and how can we guard against it?

1. It can lead to a focus on **external behaviors and practices rather than the transformation of the heart**. Legalism places an emphasis on following rules and regulations rather than on developing a relationship with God through faith and love.
2. It can lead to a sense of **self-righteousness and judgmentalism**.
3. It can **create a burden that is impossible to bear**.
4. It **can obscure the gospel message of grace**. Legalism can create a belief that one must earn salvation through good works, rather than receiving it as a gift of grace through faith in Christ.

## To guard against legalism, we can:

1. Focus on the gospel message of grace.
2. Develop a relationship with God through faith and love.
3. Cultivate humility and grace towards others.
4. Study the Scriptures in their entirety.

Overall, guarding against legalism involves maintaining a focus on the gospel message of grace, developing a personal relationship with God, cultivating humility and grace towards others, and studying the Scriptures in their entirety.

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- How should we deal with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus?

# How should we deal with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus?

1. **Verify** the source of the news: It is important to verify the source of the news before accepting it.
2. **Check** the information against the Bible: The gospel of Christ Jesus is grounded in the Bible.
3. **Seek** counsel from trusted spiritual leaders: It can be helpful to seek counsel from trusted spiritual leaders who have a deep understanding of the gospel of Christ Jesus.
4. **Engage** in respectful dialogue: If the false news is coming from within the church, it may be necessary to engage in respectful dialogue with those who are promoting it.
5. **Pray** for discernment and wisdom: Finally, it is important to pray for discernment and wisdom in dealing with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus.

Overall, dealing with false news regarding the gospel of Christ Jesus requires a commitment to truth, a willingness to seek guidance from trusted spiritual leaders, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit for discernment and wisdom.

# In SUMMARY... What comes to mind when you hear the word “freedom”?

- The concept of **freedom in Christ Jesus** refers to the freedom from the bondage of sin and the freedom to live a life that is pleasing to God.
- It means that believers are **no longer slaves to sin** but are now free to live in obedience to God's will.
- It also means that believers have **been set free from the condemnation of the law** and have been granted the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.
- This freedom is not a license to do whatever we want, but it is a **freedom to love and *serve God without fear*** and to live a life that is characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

# Journey Through Galatians

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# Next Week...

## Objective

- The focus of next week's study is to read about **God's adoption of us through the justification and freedom** found in relationship with Christ. We will look at a few different aspects of adoption and talk about what those mean for the community of God's people.