

LESSONS IN THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS



ONLY JESUS

GALATIANS is a letter from Paul reminding believers about the true message of the gospel. Some people were saying that trusting Jesus wasn't enough and that Christians also had to follow religious rules to be accepted by God. Paul makes it clear that we can't earn God's approval by trying to be perfect. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus. Following Jesus isn't about rules - it's about living in freedom and letting the Holy Spirit shape our lives to produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The message of Galatians is simple: our hope, salvation, and freedom come from ONLY JESUS...

ONLY JESUS saves us.

ONLY JESUS makes us right with God.

ONLY JESUS is the foundation of our faith.

ONLY JESUS truly sets us free.

SESSION 1: NO OTHER GOSPEL

READING: GALATIANS 1

Summary:

Paul opens up his letter to the Galatians with a powerful introduction and wastes no time getting to the heart of the issue - there is no other gospel!

Discussion Questions:

- **Have you ever believed something everyone said was true, only to later find out it wasn't? What happened?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- Why is it dangerous to add extra requirements to the gospel message? What pressures today might tempt people to change or soften the gospel?
- Read verse 10, are there times we are concerned about the approval of others or trying to 'people-please'?
- If someone asked you 'what's the gospel?' how would you explain it in a couple of sentences?
- How does Paul's life inspire us to serve God, irrespective of our past? What does it tell us about God's grace?

Application:

The Gospel isn't something we invent or change - it's the good news that Jesus has already done and we could never do!
Who can you share this good news with in the week ahead? *

SESSION 3: PROMISES, PROMISES

READING: GALATIANS 3:1 - 25

Summary:

Paul starts this chapter with what seems a harsh rebuke - 'You foolish Galatians!' Their lack of wisdom was affecting their walk of faith. He reminded them that God made a promise to Abraham based on faith, not law, and it's faith that makes us heirs to God's Promise.

Discussion Questions:

- **Have you ever made a promise just to get out of trouble?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- Do you ever feel pressure to be 'good enough'? What's the difference between earning something and receiving a promise?
- In verse 15, Paul helps the Galatians understand with 'an example from everyday life' - can you think of one from our everyday life?
- What does it mean that Abraham's faith was 'credited as righteousness'?
- How can we live in the freedom of God's promises today, trusting faith over performance in our daily lives?

Application:

God is faithful in all of His promises, including His promise of salvation through faith in Christ. Can you send an encouraging message to someone this week to remind them of one of God's Promises in the Bible?

SESSION 5: FREEDOM AND FRUIT

READING: GALATIANS 5

Summary:

True freedom as a Christian isn't permission to sin but power to love and produces Spirit-led living. Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- **If you were a fruit what would you be and why?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- How does Paul define freedom in Christ, and how does this contrast with the world's definition of freedom?
- Why does he warn about using freedom as an excuse for sin?
- Verses 9-21 list acts of the sinful nature and verses 22-23 the fruit of the Spirit - consider the contrast and consequences of them?
- Which 'fruit of the Spirit' do you think is easiest for you - and which is hardest?

Application:

Where do you most often see the sinful nature showing up in your thoughts, attitudes, or actions? The goal isn't just behavior management - it's transformation: The flesh says: 'try harder' but the Spirit says: 'walk with Me' - what can you do this week to keep in step with the Spirit?

SESSION 2: FAITH vs PRETENDING

READING: GALATIANS 2

Summary:

People often think Christianity is about trying harder to be good. This chapter challenges that idea - Paul opposed Peter and explains justification: *righteousness comes through faith in Christ, not works, pretending to do the right thing or following rules!*

Discussion Questions:

- **If people followed you around for a day, what's one thing about your life that might surprise them?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- Paul wrote in verse 6 'God does not judge by external appearance' - why is it important we that we don't either?
- Paul challenges hypocrisy - why might some people think Christians are hypocrites and how should we challenge it?
- Verse 20 says 'I have been crucified with Christ...Christ lives in me' - what does that mean for us in daily life?

Application:

Replace self-condemning thoughts with gospel truth: you don't earn God's love - you receive it through Jesus 'Who loves you and gave Himself for you'

SESSION 4: SLAVERY TO SONSHIP

READING: GALATIANS 3:26 - 4:31

Summary:

Paul uses powerful adoption imagery to show that believers are no longer slaves - in New Testament times, adoption meant you lose your old life and gain a completely new identity, family, and future...it was permanent and binding with full rights as an heir!

Discussion Questions:

- **What's one rule you had growing up that you didn't understand at the time?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- How does knowing God as Father (Abba) change the way you approach Him?
- How does understanding adoption in its original context change the way you see your identity in Christ?
- Chapter 3v28 says we are 'all one in Christ' - what does that mean for us and how can this truth shape how we treat others in the church?

Application:

Thank God daily for your identity as His child. Look for ways to live out unity across differences.

SESSION 6: SOWING AND REAPING

READING: GALATIANS 6

Summary:

Paul concludes his letter with lots of practical instruction: *restore gently, carry burdens, sow to the Spirit, boast only in the cross of Christ...*

Discussion Questions:

- **If you could sow an object to reap even more, what would it be? why?**
- What do we learn about Paul, the Galatians and God in this chapter?
- What encourages you, challenges you or leaves you with questions in this chapter?
- If you were to highlight one verse or phrase in your Bible from this chapter what would it be and why?

Additional Questions:

- Chapter 6 is packed with advice - *what stands out to you the most?*
- Read verse 1 - do you tend to address, ignore or judge someone you know who falls into sin - how can you respond in a way that's both honest and restorative?
- In what ways are we tempted to compare ourselves with others (verses 3-4), how does that affect our spiritual growth?
- Consider verses 7-9, if you continue to reap what and where you are now, what do you think you could reap later?
- Why is it so easy to grow weary in doing good? What keeps you going?

Application:

What is one intentional act of 'doing good' you can commit to this week? What piece of advice in this chapter do you most need to apply at this time - can you talk it over and pray with someone? *



SCAN QR CODE FOR AN ANIMATED OVERVIEW OF GALATIANS BY THE BIBLE PROJECT

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