

New Testament Overview

Galatians – Colossians

(Ep 4:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lessons covering the "New Testament Overview."
 - a. We have looked at Matthew through II Corinthians.
 - b. Tonight we will look at Galatians through Colossians.
3. Let us begin looking at these four books.

I. Galatians

A. History

1. Letter was written to the churches in the region of Galatia.
 - i. Around 48 – 58 A.D.
 - ii. This was a region Northwest of Jerusalem.
2. Whereas Romans seems to be written foreseeing the Judaizers Galatians is written with this being a problem at hand.
 - i. Judaizers were saying Christians had to conform Christianity with Judaism.
3. Thus you have Paul writing to refute this practice.

B. Outline

1. **(1:1-5)** Greeting & introduction
2. **(1:6-7)** Thematic statement
3. **(1:8-2:21)** Paul's apostolic authority reaffirmed and defended
4. **(3-4)** The gospel reaffirmed & the Xian faith defended as surpassing Judaism
5. **(5:1-6:10)** The practical application of the gospel to daily living
6. **(6:11-18)** Summary & conclusion

C. Lessons Learned

1. There is only one gospel
 - i. **Ga 1:6-8** "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."¹
2. We reap what we sow
 - i. **Ga 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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II. Ephesians

A. History

1. Written by Paul, 62-63 A.D., while in prison at Rome.
 - i. **Ep 3:1** "For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles"
2. While in prison Paul was under house arrest, in his own rented house.
 - i. **Ac 28:30** "Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him"
3. Paul helped establish it seems the church there in Ephesus possibly his second missionary journey (**Ac 18**) but for sure by his third missionary journey (**Ac 19**).
4. A title I heard for Ephesians really sums up what Paul is writing about.
 - i. The Glorious Church of the Christ
 - ii. Paul explains throughout the book how great the church is as Christ's bride.

B. Outline

1. **(1:1-2)** Greeting
2. **(1:3)** Thematic statement
3. **(1:4-3:21)** Blessings bestowed in the context of Christ & the church
4. **(4:1-6:20)** The practical response to spiritual blessings realized
5. **(6:21-24)** Concluding comments

C. Lessons Learned

1. We are blessed as Christians
 - i. **Ep 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"
 - ii. **I Pt 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

III. Philippians

A. History

1. Letter written by Paul while in prison in Rome.
2. Paul helped establish the church in Philippi on his second missionary journey (**Ac 16**).
3. The Philippians also were very generous to Paul in help him financially (**Ph 4:16**).
 - i. Even while in prison he sent Epaphroditus to help.
4. A good title for Philippians is...
 - i. A Joyful Confidence In Adverse Circumstances

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B. Outline

1. **(1:1-11)** Greeting & gratitude
2. **(1:12-26)** Personal preaching challenges faced by Paul
3. **(1:27-28)** Thematic statement
4. **(1:29-30)** Endure suffering
5. **(2)** Epitomize humility
6. **(3)** Beware of enemies
7. **(4)** Thematic restatement & Final remarks, exhortations

C. Lessons Learned

1. We can have confidence in Christ
 - i. **Ph 1:27-28** "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God."
 - ii. **Ph 4:4** "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
 - iii. **Ph 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

IV. Colossians

A. History

1. Written by Paul to the Colossian people while in prison in Rome.
 - i. Written around 61-63 A.D.
2. The church there in Colossae was probably established by an Ephesian convert Epaphras (**Co 1:8**).
 - i. Paul had never in person met the brethren there (**2:1**).
3. The church however was facing a great heresy in that there were some teaching that Christ was not supreme.
4. A very good title for this letter would be...
 - i. The Glorious Christ Of The Church

B. Outline

1. **(1:1-14)** Greeting, gratitude & introductory remarks
2. **(1:15-23)** Christ's supreme place in the scheme of things
3. **(1:24-2:3)** Christ's supreme place in the presentation of the gospel
4. **(2:4-10)** Christ's supreme place challenged by philosophy
5. **(2:11-17)** Christ's supreme place challenged by Judaism
6. **(2:18-23)** Christ's supreme place challenged by Gnostics
7. **(3:1-4:6)** Christ's supreme place applied to Xian living
8. **(4:7-18)** Closing remarks

New Testament Overview

C. Lessons Learned

1. Christ is supreme over all
 - i. **Co 1:15-20** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

CONCLUSION

1. When you look at each of these books something that pops out is the constant assurance of Christ, what He represents, and not to stray from Him.
2. I want to encourage each of you to look for these things in your life.
 - a. Look for the assurances of Christ.
 - b. Look for what He represents which is freedom from sin.
 - c. Look at not straying from Him so you can have eternal life.
3. Eternal life starts and ends by obeying Christ and His teachings.
4. Question: Am I striving for the assurance of Christ and freedom from sin by my actions?
5. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**