

A Study of the Books Galatians & Philippians

“It was for **freedom that Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”
-Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

“Let **this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus...”
-Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)

| Date | Text | Title/Topic | Teacher |
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| 24-Jul | Intro Philippians; 1:1-11 | Mind of Christ... Regarding Brethren | Nathan |
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FREEDOM IN CHRIST

A Study of the Book of Galatians

Summer 2019

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm
and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

-Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

Freedom In Christ

Introduction

Galatians is perhaps Paul's earliest epistle. It was written as a rebuke of Christians who had been influenced to accept an altered "gospel"; not the true gospel Paul had delivered to them and they had received. Under the influence of Judaizing teachers they had begun to accept circumcision and other observances from the Law of Moses as a required part of the good news. Paul not only corrects their error, but forever establishes that in Christ one is justified through faith. There is therefore **freedom in Christ** from the curse of attempting justification through perfect law keeping. Galatians established that Christianity as not a new sect of Judaism, but God's new covenant with all mankind to justify them through faith in Jesus Christ.

A tactic of Paul's opponents was to attack Paul's authority. So, Paul begins by defending his Apostleship as a means of vindicating the gospel. (Ch. 1-2) Then Paul focuses on how the Old Testament itself demonstrates God's plan to reconcile all nations to Him, not through law but through faith. (Ch. 3-4) Finally, Paul demonstrates that this new covenant people will follow God by being transformed, cultivating the fruit of the Spirit in their hearts. (Ch. 5-6).

At the time of Paul's writing, the Roman province of Galatia included the cities of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Paul visited this region and churches in these cities on all 3 preaching journeys. (**Read** Acts 13:14-14:23; 16:1-6; 18:23) Therefore, Paul had strong personal ties to and concern for these brethren.

Theme

*"For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus**" Galatians 3:26 (NASB)*

Outline

A Perverted Gospel (1:1-10)
The Divine Gospel (1:11-24)
The Authentic Gospel (2:1-10)
The Defended Gospel (2:11-21)
God Justifies By Faith (3:1-14)
Purpose of the Law (3:15-29)

Servant or Son? (4:1-20)
Bondage or Freedom? (4:21-31)
Falling From Grace (5:1-12)
Walk by the Spirit (5:13-26)
Do Not Lose Heart (6:1-10)
A New Creature (6:11-18)

Goal

We want to understand Paul's inspired defense of justification through faith. We also want to read Galatians for "us". We want to grow our faith and move our outlook from trust in self and law-keeping to trust in God's redemptive work in Christ. We want to learn to live in Freedom in Christ!

Questions

1. Read Galatians 1:1-6:18 (reference outline above). What stands out or draws your attention?
2. What do you hope to learn or better understand from this study?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 1: A Perverted Gospel (1:1-10)

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another..." (1:6-7)

Questions

1. Recall that Paul's opponents challenged his position as a "true" Apostle. How does Paul establish and vindicate his authority? (1:1)

2. Paul comes out swinging contradicting any argument that our deliverance is based upon our works, or any accusation that his gospel was some sort of "innovation." How? (1:3-5)

3. What is missing from this letter? (Rom. 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3) Why?

4. In verse 6, what synonym does Paul use for the gospel? (ref. 1 Thess. 2:14)

5. What do you find most interesting about 1:1-10?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 2: The Divine Gospel (1:11-24)

“For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man” (1:11)

Questions

1. What was not the source of the good news Paul taught? What was the source? (1:11-12)
2. How do the facts of verses 13-14 support Paul’s claim in Verse 11-12? (1:13-14)
3. What possible significance could there be to the duration of Paul’s Jerusalem visit and who he did or did not spend time with? (1:18-19)
4. Does the quote about Paul’s preaching shed any light on the content of his preaching? (1:23-24)
5. What do you find most interesting about 1:11-24?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 3: The Authentic Gospel (2:1-10)

“and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.” (2:9)

Questions

1. Read Acts 15:1-29. If 2:1ff is a reference to those events, how does that relate to Galatians?
2. Why might Paul mention Titus? How does it further his case? (2:1, 3)
3. Paul says the false brethren would “bring us to bondage” as opposed to what? (2:4) How vigorously did Paul and Barnabas defend the truth of the gospel? (2:5)
4. Does Paul’s use of “high reputation”, “reputation” and “reputed” teach us anything? (2:6-9)
5. What do you find most interesting about 2:1-10?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 4: The Defended Gospel (2:11-21)

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." (2:21)

Questions

1. Does Paul's confrontation with Cephas (Peter) contribute to his overall argument? How? (2:11)
2. How had Peter "lived like the Gentiles"? (2:12-14)
3. The Jewish separatism was not over the death, burial or resurrection of Christ, but circumcision and law keeping. Yet, the Holy Spirit described it as "not according to the truth of the gospel." (2:14) Why?
4. How does the pursuit of justification through law keeping nullify the grace of God? (2:21)
5. What do you find most interesting about 2:11-21?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 5: God Justifies By Faith (3:1-14)

“The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” (3:8)

Questions

1. What terms does Paul use to describe the Galatians that have been “convinced” that a spiritual journey that began through faith can be completed by law keeping? (3:1-3)
2. Paul calls Abraham as his witness in his case against the Judaizing teachers. How? (3:6-9)
3. Why is pursuing justification by works of law considered a curse? (3:10-12)
4. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, meaning He delivered us from what? How does Paul tie this outcome back to God’s original intent? (3:13-14)
5. What do you find most interesting about 3:1-14?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 7: Servants or Sons? (4:1-20)

"Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." (4:7)

Questions

1. Paul referred to the Law as a tutor (3:24), what other 2 roles does he compare it to here? How did the nature of the relationship change "when the fullness of time came"? (4:1-7)
2. Paul compares pursuing righteousness by command keeping to returning to what condition? (4:8-11)
3. In what ways does Paul appeal to his past, close personal relationship with the Galatians? (4:12-20)
4. What do you find most interesting about 4:1-20?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 8: Bondage or Freedom? (4:21-31)

"So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman." (4:31)

Questions

1. What is the strength in the emphasis of source of Paul's argument? (4:21)
2. What phrases are used to contrast the 2 mothers? The two sons? (4:22-23)
3. In what way are Christians like Isaac as opposed to Isaacs's physical descendants? (4:24-28)
4. What similarity does Paul mention between the past story and present allegory? (4:29-31)
5. What do you find most interesting about 4:21-31?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 9: Falling From Grace (5:1-12)

“... you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” (5:4)

Questions

1. What has Christ set us free from? Is there application beyond Law of Moses specifically? (5:1)
2. How does Paul characterize their attempt to be justified by law keeping? What is true of us if/when we pursue righteousness by works? (5:2-4)
3. Circumcision (emblematic of the whole law) means nothing. What means something? (5:5-6)
4. What words/phrases does Paul use to characterize the influence of the false teachers? Is he being mean-spirited or unloving? (5:7-12)
5. What do you find most interesting about 5:1-12?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 10: Walk by the Spirit (5:13-26)

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." (5:25)

Questions

1. Our freedom comes with what obligations? (5:13-15)
2. Walking by the Spirit we will not do what? (5:16-17)
3. If we are led by the Spirit we are not dependent upon written down law to provide our moral restraint. Why not? (5:18)
4. How can we know we are being led by the flesh? (5:19-21)
5. How can we know that we walk by, live by, and are led by the Spirit? What will following the Spirit produce? (5:22-26)

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 11: Do Not Lose Heart (6:1-10)

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” (6:9)

Questions

1. Looking back, how would the Galatians know if they were among “you who are spiritual”? (6:1)
2. Summarize verse 4 in your own words.
3. How can we reconcile “each one shall bear his own load” in verse 5, with the instruction to “bear one another’s burdens” in verse 2?
4. Verse 7 is a truism that is often quoted alone. But what is the immediate context (verse 6)? How does that tie in to verse 8?
5. In 6:9-10, Paul uses 2 phrases with reference to time. What are they and how should they impact our perspective and activity?

Freedom In Christ

Lesson 12: A New Creature (6:11-18)

“But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (6:14)

Questions

1. What impact might verse 11 have on the readers (see 4:12-16)? (6:11)
2. Paul strikes at the true motive of the Judaizing teachers. What was it? Explain. (6:12-13)
3. What is the relationship between seeking righteousness by works of Law and boasting? (6:14-15)
4. In 6:16, what all is implied by the phrase “the Israel of God”? (see 3:29)
5. What do you find most interesting about 6:11-18?

MIND OF CHRIST

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Summer 2019

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...”

-Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)

Mind of Christ

Introduction

Philippians is perhaps the most personal letter that Paul wrote, and one of the most studied letters by Christians today. The letter was clearly written to a group of people whom Paul deeply respected and loved. Readers get a personal glimpse into Paul's thoughts, which clearly modeled the mindset in which Christ Himself had. Because Paul imitated the mind of Christ, certain attitudes were manifested in Paul's life - the letter of Philippians reveals to us the attitudes which the mind of Christ produced in Paul.

At the time of Paul's writing, the city of Philippi was a Roman colony, having been secured by Augustus Caesar during a key military victory. Philippi became an important economic and strategic city, due in large part to a major road/trade route that went through the city (Via Egnatia). As far as we know, there were no synagogues in the city, indicating Philippi was not inhabited by very many Jews.

Paul had a deep connection to the Christians that lived in Philippi. Paul and Silas traveled to Philippi around 48-51 AD during the "2nd Missionary Journey" and helped start local churches in the area (**Read Acts 16**). Scholars debate the exact date and location in which Paul penned the letter of Philippians; most believe the letter was written during Paul's arrest in Rome (61-63 AD) while others believe it was during an earlier arrest in Ephesus (58 AD).

Theme

"Let this **mind be in you**, which was **also in Christ Jesus...**" Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)

Outline

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mind of Christ... Regarding Brethren (1:1-11) | Regarding Righteousness (3:1-14) |
| Regarding Adversity & Death (1:12-30) | Regarding Maturity (3:15-21) |
| Regarding Servanthood (2:1-11) | Regarding Peace (4:1-9) |
| Regarding Obedience (2:12-30) | Regarding Contentment (4:10-23) |

Goal

We want to gain a better understanding of the mind of Christ and find examples of His mindset in scripture. Similarly, we want to gain a better understanding of the mindset of Paul and how that directed Paul's attitudes and actions in the letter of Philippians. Have we adopted the mind of Christ? What attitudes and actions will be produced if we have a mindset of Christ?

Questions

1. Read the letter of Philippians (reference outline above). What stands out or draws your attention?

2. What do you hope to learn or better understand from this study?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 1: Regarding Brethren (1:1-11)

*"It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart,
for you are all partakers with me of grace (1:7)*

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about brethren? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?

2. Paul is thankful to God because he has a partnership with the Philippians. What does "partnership" mean in the immediate context? How else is "partnership" used in scripture/elsewhere? (1:3-5)

3. Paul is confident that God began a good work in the Philippians and He will bring it to completion. What is this "good work" and what does Paul mean by saying God "will bring it to completion?" (1:6)

4. Why is it important that our love need wisdom and discernment? What are some real-life examples of 1) love *with* wisdom/discernment and 2) love *without* wisdom/discernment? (1:9)

5. What do you find most interesting about 1:1-11?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 2: Regarding Adversity & Death (1:12-30)

*“...Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (1:20-21)*

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about adversity and death? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?
2. Paul met an uncertain future with a mindset of joy. How could Paul think this way? (1:18-26)
3. What does it mean to honor Christ and what are ways in which we can honor Him? (1:20-30)
4. Paul said to let their “manner of life” or “conduct” be worthy of the gospel. Research what the word “manner” or “conduct” means in Greek. How does this help us understand this verse better? (1:27).
5. What do you find most interesting about 1:12-30?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 3: Regarding Servanthood (2:1-11)

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant...” (2:5-7)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about servanthood? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?

2. What does Paul mean when he tells the Philippians to “be of the same mind?” (2:2)

3. Verses 6-11 can be divided into two sections: the humiliation of Christ (2:6-8) and the exaltation of Christ (2:9-11). How would you summarize the overall message of verses 6-11?

4. This passage is one of the most controversial in Philippians, mostly due to the meaning of a few phrases. Define the following phrases in the context of the passage: 1) “form of God” 2) “a thing to be grasped” 3) “emptied Himself.”

5. What do you find most interesting about 2:1-11?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 4: Regarding Obedience (2:12-30)

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...” (2:12)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about obedience? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?
2. In the secular world, there is usually a job description detailing *what* an employee is to do and *how* they are to do it. In this section, *what* is a Christian to be doing? (2:12) *How* is the Christian supposed to do that work? (2:13-18)
3. What is a drink offering? (Exodus 29:38-46; Numbers 15:1-16) What does Paul mean by this? (2:17)
4. What characteristics of Timothy made him a valuable asset to send to the Philippians? (2:19-24)
5. What do you find most interesting about 2:12-30?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 5: Regarding Righteousness (3:1-14)

“...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (3:9)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about righteousness? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?

2. Paul was not troubled to write the “same things” to the Philippians. What could Paul be referring to when he said, “same things” and what lessons can be learned from this verse? (3:1)

3. True righteousness does not come from which sources? (3:2-9) True righteousness comes instead from which sources? (3:9-11) What passages in Galatians convey a similar idea and concept?

4. A person filled with true righteousness will “forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.” (3:13) What is Paul forgetting and what is Paul looking ahead to?

5. What do you find most interesting about 3:1-14?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 6: Regarding Maturity (3:15-21)

“Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you” (3:15)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about maturity? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?
2. What does it mean to be a mature person (1 Cor. 14:20; Heb. 5:14)? In the immediate context, Paul says a mature person will think in what kind of way? (3:15)
3. Do we (as a local church) have to all be at the same level of maturity to have unity? Why or why not?
4. Who may Paul be talking about when he says, “enemies of the cross?” How are they described?
5. What do you find most interesting about 3:15-21?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 7: Regarding Peace (4:1-9)

"The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (4:7)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about peace? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?

2. What principles do we learn from Paul in this passage about resolving conflict? (4:1-3)

3. Verses 4-9 appear to be grammatically independent of each other; all these exhortations from Paul seem to be random. Is there a common theme or a way to connect the verses in the passage? (4:4-9)

4. Can the peace of God be understood? Why or why not? (4:7)

5. What do you find most interesting about 4:1-9?

Mind of Christ

Lesson 8: Regarding Contentment (4:10-23)

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (4:11-13)

Questions

1. How did Christ view/think about contentment? What are some passages that give us a glimpse into that mindset of Christ?
2. What is meaning of verse 13 in the immediate context of the chapter and book of Philippians? (4:13)
3. What makes a gift/sacrifice a “sweet smelling aroma” or a “fragrant offering?” (4:18; Eph. 5:2)
4. What kind of needs will God supply of ours, and what passages support your answer? (4:19)
5. What do you find most interesting about 4:10-23?