

STUDIES IN

GALATIANS

Prepared By

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BACKGROUND FOR STUDY OF GALATIANS

To whom written: To the churches of Galatia, probably including Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and possibly others.

Time of writing: unknown.

Problem under consideration: Judaizers were preaching a perverted gospel, insisting that Gentiles must be circumcised, leading Christians away from Christ and salvation by grace.

Tactics: Undermining confidence in Paul's apostleship, then teaching their false doctrine.

Primary message of the letter: Salvation is by grace through faith, not by law.

Salvation by law

Perfection required

No forgiveness

One would earn salvation

Boasting

No one can do it

One's own righteousness

Salvation by faith

Active, obedient faith required

Forgiveness for the penitent

Salvation by grace

No boasting

All who submit to Christ can be saved

Righteousness of God

General facts concerning the Galatian churches

1. Begun on Paul's first journey.
2. Revisited on 2nd and 3rd journeys - Acts 16:6; Acts 18:23.
3. Timothy was from Lystra.
4. Paul, when writing First Corinthians, had given instructions to the Galatians concerning giving on the 1st day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and Gaius of Derbe was in the group traveling to Jerusalem with money for the poor saints (Acts 20:4).

LESSON #1: PAUL AFFIRMS HIS APOSTLESHIP

Answer the following questions from Galatians, chapter 1

1. What does Paul say of his apostleship in verse 1?
2. In what way were the Galatians (and all Christians) delivered from “this present evil age”?

According to whose will?
3. What had happened to the Galatians according to verses 6-7?
4. Sometimes it is said that verse 9 is just a repetition of verse 8, and that the repetition exists for emphasis. To some degree this is possibly true, but there are differences in the two verses. What differences do you see?
5. According to verse 10, what results when one seeks to please men rather than God?
6. From whom did Paul receive the gospel which he preached, according to verses 11-12?

From whom did he not receive it?
7. What had Paul given up in order to preach the gospel? Verses 13-14
8. **Thought Question:** How do verses 15-17 fit into Paul’s affirmation that his message came by revelation?
9. How much time passed before he went to Jerusalem?

Whom did he see there?

How do you reconcile what Paul says of this time period with the account of his conversion and early days as a Christian found in Acts, chapter 9?

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10. Where was Paul after his 15 days in Jerusalem?

How does this fact, along with what is said in verses 22-24, fit into Paul's argumentation?

11. Summarize the evidence Paul gives in this chapter that his message came directly from Jesus Christ rather than from men.

12. List practical lessons to be learned from chapter 1.

LESSON #2: 'I WITHSTOOD HIM TO HIS FACE'

Answer the following questions from Galatians, chapter 2

1. Consider verses 1-3. Why was the presence of Titus so valuable in the meeting concerning circumcision?
2. How are the false teachers described in verse 4?
3. What was at stake in that meeting, according to verse 5?
4. What truth did Paul learn from others who were present? Verse 6
5. What was the response of James, Cephas, and John to Paul's work among the Gentiles, according to verses 7-10?

What request did they make of him?

6. What had Peter done to deserve Paul's rebuke?

Who had followed Peter in this action?

7. **Thought Question:** What harm could have easily resulted had the actions of Peter and Barnabas gone unchecked?
8. **Thought Question:** Consider Matthew 18:15-17. How do you explain Paul's not following the steps given by Jesus in his rebuke of Peter?
9. What is said of Peter and Barnabas in the early part of verse 14?

Look back at verse 5. What was continuing as a result of the meeting concerning circumcision?

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10. What is the basic truth being taught in verses 14-16?

11. **Thought Question:** In what way would the actions of Peter and Barnabas build again what had been destroyed, as suggested in verse 18?

12. How does Paul contrast his former position with his present position in verses 19-20?

13. How does righteousness not come, according to verse 21?

How does it come?

14. List practical lessons one can learn from this chapter.

LESSON #3: SALVATION BY FAITH, NOT BY LAW

Answer the following questions from Galatians, chapter 3

1. What had happened to the Galatians, according to verse 1?
2. What are the obvious answers to the questions of verses 2, 3, and 5?
3. Consider verses 6-9. Who are the true sons of Abraham?

Of what nations?

4. Consider verses 10-12. What would be required for one to be justified by law?
5. What did Christ do for us, according to verses 13-14?

What can we receive as a result?

6. Consider verses 15-18. What promise was made to Abraham and his Seed?

Who was the Seed?

What could not annul the promise?

7. What was the purpose of the law, according to verse 19?

What do you think this means?

8. Consider verses 21-22. Why was it necessary that righteousness should come through faith in Christ rather than through law?

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9. Consider verses 23-25. Translations vary, some using the word “schoolmaster,” some “tutor,” still others “guardian.” **Research question:** What was the purpose of a “tutor” when with a child?

What was the purpose of the law as a “tutor”?

Are we still under a “tutor”?

10. What is our present state, according to verses 26-27?

At what point did we reach this state?

11. What distinctions are broken down in Christ? Verse 28

12. How does verse 29 define Abraham’s seed?

LESSON #4: “THESE ARE TWO COVENANTS”

Answer the following questions from Galatians, chapter 4

1. Read verses 1-5. What was the former state of the Galatians?

Their present state?

What brought about the change?

2. Verse 4 speaks of the “fullness of the time.” The timing of Jesus’ coming and death was planned, all in keeping with God’s purpose. The questions have been raised, “Why didn’t the Christ come as soon as sin occurred? Wasn’t there a need for a Savior right then? Why wait 1,000s of years?” The answer is in the expression, “the fullness of the time.” Can you think of some things accomplished in those 1,000s of years that should have helped the people to recognize and accept the Christ?

Can you think of other things that might have contributed to the timing of His coming and death?

3. What blessings are to be received as sons, according to verses 6-7?
4. Why was Paul concerned for the Galatians, according to verses 6-11?
5. How had the Galatians reacted to Paul’s physical infirmities while he was in their midst, according to verses 13-16?
6. For what purpose were the false teachers zealously courting the Galatian Christians, according to verse 17?

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7. After reading verses 21-31, answer the following:
- a. The bondwoman (Hagar) represents _____
 - b. The freewoman (Sarah) represents _____
 - c. What should the Galatians conclude from the fact that Ishmael persecuted Isaac?
 - d. Which was cast out?

Why?

LESSON #5: WORKS OF THE FLESH - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Answer the following questions from Galatians, Chapter 5

1. What warning is given in verse 1?

2. Read verses 2-4. List four things that result if one is persuaded that he must be circumcised.

3. If one seeks to be justified by law, he is debtor to do what?

He has fallen from what?

According to verse 5 what do we eagerly wait for?

Think! How do these verses fit in the context of the basic message of Galatians?

4. What truly avails in Christ Jesus, according to verse 6?

5. List several things said of the false teachers in verses 7-12.

6. The liberty we have in Christ must be combined with what great quality, according to verses 13-15?

7. What conflict is discussed in verses 16-18?

8. Consider the same conflict as discussed in verses 19-23. Do you struggle with this conflict?

How can one overcome, according to verses 24-25?

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9. What three works of the flesh are mentioned in verse 26?

Is it possible that these were sins that the Galatians needed especially to overcome?

Are they some that we might be especially susceptible to?

10. List practical lessons that can be learned from this chapter.

LESSON #6: FINAL EXHORTATIONS

Answer the following questions from Galatians, chapter 6

1. What responsibility is given to those who are spiritual in verse 1?

With what spirit are they to fulfill this responsibility?

2. What is one to do for others, according to verses 2-5?

What responsibility does he have toward himself?

3. What should one who is taught the word do, according to verse 6?

Can you find other scriptures that teach this?

4. What is said of sowing and reaping in verses 7-9?

5. What is our responsibility according to verse 10?

Thought Question: Is the application of this verse for the local church acting collectively or for individual action?

Give the reason for your answer.

6. For what purposes were the false teachers compelling the Galatians to be circumcised, according to verses 12-13?

7. In what did Paul boast? Verse 14

8. Three crucifixions appear in verse 14. List them.

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9. Compare Galatians 6:15 and Galatians 5:6. What two things truly avail in Christ?

10. Consider verse 17. **Think!** What marks did the Judaizers boast of?

What marks did Paul bear?

What marks do you think Paul was thinking of?

11. List practical lessons to be learned from this chapter.