

GALATIANS

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Word of Faith International Christian Center – St. Thomas
Teaching the Word, Doing the Work, Touching the World

INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

by Pastor Ronald D. Walker Jr. | ZOOM Bible Study Notes | Ministered Thursday, 5/20/2021

The Book of Galatians

Author: The author is the Apostle Paul.

Purpose: To help believers in Galatia resist false teachers who taught that salvation comes only to those who add the human merit of obedience to the law to their faith in Christ.

Date: A.D. 49-55

Background: The Epistle to the Galatians

Galatians is the second piece of writing that emerged from the general controversy over keeping the law. Galatians was written by Paul, a champion of freedom, who saw that neither Gentiles nor Jews could be delivered from their sins by self-effort in keeping a set of ethical principles.

Galatians accordingly has been called “the Magna Charta of spiritual emancipation” because it declared that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us... that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14).

A controversy broke out in when, some men from Jerusalem who professed to be followers of the strict observance of the law that James practice, who was the leader of the church. They argued unless the converts were circumcised, they could not be saved. So Paul wrote this letter to settle this question, “*Can you be saved without following the letter of the law?*”

Galatians was not written as an essay in contemporary history. **It was a protest against corruption of the gospel of Christ.** The essential truth of justification by

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faith rather than by the works of the law had been obscured by the Judaizers insistence that believers in Christ must keep the law if they expected to be perfect before God. When Paul learned that this teach had begun to penetrate the Galatian churches and that it had alienated them from their heritage of liberty, he wrote this epistle.

As you read this Galatians you will notice the tone of this book is warlike. An example of this is **Galatians 1:8** which says, " *Though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"

The Book of Galatians was the earliest of Paul's writings. It summarizes the heart of "the gospel which (he preached) among the Gentiles." In it he showed that man's chief problem is obtaining a right standing with God. Since he is incapable of establishing this himself because "a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (**Galatians 2:16 (KJV)**), it must be provided for him by another. Christ has given this standing, for he "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present evil world" (**Galatians 1:4**). His provision is available to those who put their full trust in him, for "the promise by faith in Jesus Christ (is) given to them that believe" (**Galatians 3:22**).

The doctrine of justification by faith apart from the law was recognized by the church and was accepted. Christianity was ready for a new era of development.

OUTLINE OF GALATIANS

- I. Introduction: The Rightness of Paul's Gospel Asserted, 1:1-10**
- II. Justification by Faith Defended: Paul's Authority, 1:11-2:21**
 - A. His Authority Acquired Through Revelation, Gal 1:11-24
 - B. His Authority Approved by the Church in Jerusalem, 2:1-10
 - C. His Authority Acknowledged in the Rebuke of Peter, 2:11-21
- III. Justification by Faith Explained: Paul's Gospel, 3:1-4:31**

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- A. The Argument from Experience, 3:1-5
- B. The Argument from Abraham, 3:6-9
- C. The Argument from the Law, 3:10-4:11T
- D. The Argument from Personal Testimony, 4:12-20
- E. The Argument from an Allegory, 4:21-31

IV. **Justification by Faith Applied: Paul's Ethics, 5:1-6:10**

- A. In Relation to Christian Liberty, 5:1-12
- B. In Relation to License and Love, 5:13-15
- C. In Relation to the Flesh and the Spirit, 5:16-26
- D. In Relation to a Sinning Brother, 6:1-5
- E. In Relation to Giving, 6:6-10

V. **Conclusion: The Substance of Paul's Instruction, 6:11-18**

OUR FAVORITE VERSES FROM GALATIANS

Galatians 1:15: *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace.*

Galatians 2:20: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Galatians 3:26: *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 4:7: *Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Galatians 4:28: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 5:1: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

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Galatians 5:13: *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Galatians 5:14: *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Galatians 5:22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Galatians 6:9: *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

EPHESIANS

FINDING OUR TRUE IDENTITY

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THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Author: The author is the Apostle Paul.

Purpose: To teach the Christians at Ephesus the wonder and practical implications of being the Church in Christ.

Date: A.D. 60-62

Background: The Epistle to the Ephesians

The four (4) Prison Epistles, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon, were the products of this period from A.D. 56 or 57 to A.D. 60 or 61. Undoubtedly they were written during the period of imprisonment, for all of them make reference to Paul's bonds (**Philippians 1:12-13, Ephesians 3:1; 4:1, 6:20; Col 1:24; Philemon 1**).

Ephesians was written after many churches had been founded and after Paul had opportunity to contemplate the meaning of the new organism that had come into being. It is the one writing in the New Testament in which the word "*church*" means the church universal rather than the local group. This book was intended to inform the Gentiles of their new calling, and it disclosed the mystery of the body of Christ in which there is neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free.

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Throughout the Epistle to the Ephesians runs the one theme of the church. The epistle was not directed to novices, it not directed to new Christians in the Christian Faith, this book was directed to those who, having achieved some maturity in spiritual excellence, but they are not satisfied with what they had, and they wanted more. They wanted to go on to a fuller knowledge and life.

As you read the book of Ephesians read it very slowly. Try to absorb what it is saying about you and where you stand in Christ and what position you stand in with Christ and with God.

The first half of Ephesians talks about the sovereign purpose of God in establishing the church in which the divine plan of redemption is elaborated (1:4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 20; 2:4, 6, 10; 3:11). In the second half the conduct of the believer is emphasized in the word “*walk*”, which describes a model of how you should conduct yourself (4:1, 17; 5:1, 8, 15). You will also find that we are not limited to the sphere of this world but we have a spirit of activity in the Heavens. In other words, we have armor to deal with things in the heavens.

This book is revelation of the new picture of the church functioning as a single body created out of Jews and gentiles equipped with spiritual warfare and standards of it’s own as we engage in spiritual warfare.

The goal of the church is found in **Ephesians 3:14**, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*”

Ephesians 4:13 (The Passion Translation)

These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness into the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son

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of God, and finally we become one into a perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed into the abundance of Christ.

Our Favorite Verses from Ephesians

Ephesians is chock-full of empowering, convicting reminders on Christ-centered living. Besides those mentioned above, here are some other favorites:

Ephesians 2:8-9: *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

Ephesians 2:21-22: *“In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”*

Ephesians 5:8: *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light”*

Ephesians 5:21: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

Ephesians 6:7: *“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people.”*

Ephesians 6:10-11: *“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

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Book of Ephesians Outline

I. The believer's position in Christ. 1:1-3:21.

- A. Salutation. 1:1,2.
- B. All spiritual blessings. 1:3-14.
 - Chosen by the Father. 1:3-6.
 - Redeemed by the Son. 1:7-12.
 - Sealed by the Holy Spirit. 1:13,14.
- C. Paul's first prayer. 1:15-23.
- D. Salvation by grace. 2:1-10.
 - What we were in the past. 2:1-3.
 - What we are in the present. 2:4-6.
 - What we shall be in the future. 2:7-10.
- E. Oneness of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. 2:11-22.
 - What the Gentiles were without Christ. 2:11,12.
 - The one body. 2:13-18.
 - The one building. 2:19-22.
- F. The revelation of the mystery. 3:1-13.
 - The dispensation of the grace of God. 3:1-6.
 - The fellowship of the mystery. 3:7-13.
- G. Paul's second prayer. 3:14-21.

II. The believer's conduct in the world. 4:1-6:24.

- A. The worthy walk. 4:1-16.
 - The unity of the Spirit. 4:1-6.
 - The gift of Christ. 4:7-12.
 - The unity of faith and knowledge. 4:13-16.
- B. The different walk. 4:17-32.
 - Description of the Gentiles' walk. 4:17-19.
 - Putting off the old and putting on the new. 4:20-24.
 - Practical application. 4:25-32.
- C. The loving walk. 5:1-14.
 - Walking in love. 5:1-7.
 - Walking in light. 5:8-14.
- D. The wise walk. 5:15-6:9.
 - Being circumspect. 5:15-17.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit. 5:18-6:9.
 - Rejoicing and thanksgiving. 5:19,20.
 - Submission in practical relationships. 5:21-6:9.
 - Wives and husbands. 5:21-33.
 - Children and parents. 6:1-4.
 - Servants and masters. 6:5-9.

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E. The Christian Walk as warfare. 6:10-20.

- Being strong in the Lord-the whole armor of God. 6:10-17.
- Prayer for all saints and for Paul. 6:18-20.

F. Closing greetings. 6:21-24.