

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Galatians Bible Study

“Free!!!”

Kathleen Dalton

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Galatians

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Bible Studies
by Kathleen Dalton
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Galatians Bible Study

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This book has been put together for your use:

- In your personal devotional Bible Study time.
- or
- For your Bible Study Discussion Group.

It is divided into several lessons; each lesson typically covers one chapter of the book of the Bible you are studying.

Each lesson has two (2) parts:

1. Questions for you to Answer.
2. My Comments and Thoughts.

I suggest answering the questions on your own before you read my comments on the passage. If you are studying as a group and not everyone has their own copy of this Bible Study, I suggest making sure each member of your group has a copy of the next week's questions in advance so that they can prepare if they want to. Preparation for a Bible Study is a great way to establish the habit of getting into the Word every day.

An online version of this study is available for free download at:
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Galatians Bible Study

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Introduction

Galatians Bible Study

“Free!!!”

As Christians, our own sinful nature plays a little trick on us. Our pride starts us to thinking, “Well, yes, I need a Savior...yes, I’m a sinner...but I’d rather not feel like such a loser. I’d rather feel like my Savior loved me because I’m so loveable. I will do better in this area, or in that area...or I will do this extra good deed, or that one....and that will make me better in His eyes...I’ll be more *worthy* to be saved.” And in so thinking we slide away from the side of the One Who died so that we *could* be worthy. We begin to listen to another Gospel – the Gospel of works. We begin to love another savior – the one we’ve made up in our minds.

The Galatian believers were tempted to think circumcision and the old traditions of Judaism would make them more acceptable to God. The more they entertained those thoughts, the more chained up they were in the slavery of works.

Paul writes to them from a heart of love – reminding them that they are not slaves to works – they are

Free!!!

Lesson 1
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 1:1-10 “Dance with the One That Brung Ya”

1. :1&2 Who is sending this letter?
 - a.
 - b.

2. :1&2 Who is the letter from?
 - a.
 - b.

3. :2 Who is the letter written to?

4. How do we know the letter is for us, too?

5. :3 Paul wants grace and peace for all of his readers. Who would that grace and peace come from?
 - a.
 - b.

6. Why doesn't Paul say that grace & peace are also coming from the Holy Spirit? (hint: does he mention the Holy Spirit in the salutation of any of his other letters?)

7. :4&5 What four things does Paul say about Jesus Christ in this salutation?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

8. :6-9 What is Paul upset about?
9. What possible “other Gospel” could there be?
10. Why is this something to be upset about?
11. In your opinion, what is the solution to falsehood?
12. :10 What is not motivating Paul?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. Do I understand what the Gospel really is?
14. Am I willing to get upset when the Gospel is twisted?
15. What am I supposed to do when I see that the Gospel is not being presented truthfully?
16. How motivated am I by trying to please people when it comes to the Gospel?

Lesson 1

Answers

Galatians 1:1-10 “Dance with the One That Brung Ya”

You know the story. The beautiful young girl falls in love with the handsome young man. He invites her to the big dance, the one everyone is just dying to attend. The evening is full of romance.... stars in the sky.... music playing...love all around. But then...once they are at the dance.... she begins to notice some of the other young men...and they are certainly good-looking, too...and before you know it she is dancing the night away with everyone but the one she came with. Her wandering eye is hurting her young man...and in addition to that, she is hurting herself...because he is, by far, the best guy there.

Silly little story – but I think it gives us a picture of what we sometimes do in our relationship to Jesus....

1. :1&2 Who is sending this letter?
 - a. Paul
 - b. The brothers who are with him.

In verse 1 you see that Paul is the sender...and then the beginning of verse 2 tells you that also the “brothers with” Paul are sending it. In other words, these fellow Christians who are with Paul know what he is saying in this letter, and want the receivers to know that the message from Paul is their message, too.

Who are those “brothers” with Paul? Let’s wait until the second half of Chapter 1 to answer that, in next week’s lesson. In that lesson we’ll take the time to see who Paul was, where he was when he wrote this letter, and who was with him.

2. :1&2 Who is the letter from?
 - a. God the Father
 - b. God the Son, Jesus.

Yes, the letter was thought through and written by Paul. And yes, the brothers with Paul are intent that the letter be perceived as from them, too. But, bottom

line, the thoughts, words and heart of the letter are first from God. From the Father and the Son (and the Holy Spirit, too, of course). They are the Ones who put the desire to write in the heart of Paul. They put the words into the mind of Paul. They put the love into his heart. What was written on Paul's scroll two thousand years ago began within the very being of God.

Why is that important for us to know? Because if this is from Paul we can respect and admire and maybe learn from what he is saying. But if it is from Almighty God.... then we need to slow down, pay attention, and make sure we don't miss a word.

3. :2 Who is the letter written to?

To the churches in Galatia. In the first century, this Galatia area included the cities of Antioch, Lystra, Derbe & Iconium. All of these are places Paul visited on his 1st and 2nd missionary journeys. It is a letter intended for many different churches, each unique, but all facing the challenges Paul is going to address.

4. How do we know the letter is for us, too?

2nd Timothy 3:16 says: "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." (Amplified Version) That tells us that everything we find in the Bible, although it may originally have been intended for a specific audience hundreds of years ago, is still relevant to us today. Every portion of scripture is the Word of God, and has an alive, powerful purpose in each of our lives.

Do we just forget who it was originally written for, then? No, not at all. In this letter to the Galatians, for instance, as we know more and more about the times and circumstances surrounding its original recipients, we understand even better what God was teaching them...and therefore we have a better idea of what He would teach us.

Here's are three simple steps you can take to understand a passage of scripture:

First: *Observe.* Really, it's just that simple. Just read it. What does it say? Put it into your own words. Summarize it. Notice whether the tone is gentle or alarmed or if there is any emotion at all in the passage. Ask yourself who is in it?...who is the author?...who is hearing the words being spoken?...or who will be reading the words spoken? Just observe. Find out the facts.

Second: *Ask.* After you have discovered all you can by simply looking at the passage, then begin to ask the questions which can't be answered by just

looking. For instance: What was life like for the people hearing this? What customs and culture defined the lives of these people? Is there anything similar to this anywhere else in the Bible? Does this passage seem to be contradictory to anything else in the Bible? Are there contrasts here in the passage which will help me see things more clearly? Are there words or phrases which are used over and over again? Is there anything here I don't understand? Many of these questions can be answered by having a conversation with a person well-versed in Bible history and culture...or simply with the help of a good study Bible. If you are in a Bible study group, the members of your group can join together to find or contribute answers.

Third: Apply. Now that you have a good understanding of what the passage says and what it means, it's time to come to conclusions. You see, the Bible is not just a book for learning. We *do* learn when we study it, but it is so much more. Because the Bible is the very words of Almighty God we are in an amazing position when we read it. We can't just say, "Oh...interesting." when we are having a conversation with the One Who made us! We *have* to respond. We have to say "What do *You* want me to do with this knowledge?" Sometimes we have to fall to our knees before our God and admit we have failed...or sinned...or just that we are so much less than would please Him.

So, again, the third step is to *apply this to me*. (not somebody else) In other words...how should I change? As the Psalmist said: "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties. And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" Psalm 139:23&24
How would Almighty God have me be different because of what I just learned?

Any study of scripture which ignores the third step is just learning...and not valuable!

It's not *learning* we need...it's *change* we need...so that we can walk in His ways, next to Him.

5. :3 Paul wants grace and peace for all of his readers...who would that grace and peace come from?
 - a. God the Father
 - b. God the Son...Jesus

My study Bible tells me that the term "grace" was, in this case, a Christian adaptation of a common Greek form of greeting. And the term "peace" was the common Hebrew form of greeting. "(NASB Zondervan Study Bible)

But this is not only a common greeting, of course. It's not a common letter.

“Grace” and “Peace” have other meanings for those who read this letter. They are both gifts from an Almighty God. “Grace” – the gift of wanting the things God wants. “Peace” – the gift of being in calm, healthy relationship with the God Who gives grace.

Paul starts out his letters with this salutation – starting each letter with a gift from God – “Grace” and “Peace”. No matter what message Paul has to deliver from God, grace and peace will be enough to see the reader through.

6. Why doesn't Paul say that grace & peace are also coming from the Holy Spirit? (hint: does he mention the Holy Spirit in the salutation of any of his other letters?)

This isn't deep theology or anything...it's just interesting to me that in his salutations in all of his letters, Paul never says that “grace” and “peace” come from the Holy Spirit, even though, of course, they do – because the Holy Spirit is just as much God as the Father and the Son. So, why doesn't Paul say “Grace be unto you, and peace from God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and from God the Holy Spirit”?

Here's my guess: I'm thinking it's because the job of the Holy Spirit is to point to Jesus, not to Himself. He is the powerful and silent member of the Trinity, Who doesn't want the attention on Himself...because His most treasured job is to point people to the Son – the One Who sacrificed His life and rose from the dead, and sits at the right hand of the Father until His return.

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you.”

John 16:13-14 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

Yes, of course, grace and peace are from the Holy Spirit, too. He just doesn't inspire Paul to say it – because His job is to see that our eyes always go to the Father and the Son.

7. :4&5 What four things does Paul say about Jesus Christ in this salutation?

1. He gave Himself for our sins.
2. He rescues us from the evil times we live in.
3. He did all of this in obedience to God the Father.
4. He is worthy of glory for ever and ever.

Maybe, as you read this passage, you could just remind yourself of what each of those four things has meant in your life:

He gave Himself for my sins.

Remember when you first came to a knowledge of your sinfulness...and what happened when you understood Jesus had wiped out your guilt forever?

He rescues us from the evil times we live in.

Think of your own present struggle with sins which seem to defeat you again and again...and thank Him that He is able every minute to rescue you when you reach out your hand to grasp His.

He did all of this in obedience to God the Father.

Maybe you could bow your knee before Him for just a minute as you realize that He bowed His knee before the Father.

He is worthy of glory for ever and ever.

Turn to *Ephesians 3:20&21* and just read it out loud. Join Paul as He raises his hands to the heavens and bursts out in praise to the only One Who deserves glory: *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.”*

8. :6-9 What is Paul upset about?

Here's where our beginning illustration of the girl and the boy at the dance comes in: The Galatian Christians had received the truth about Jesus. They had acknowledged their sinfulness, and gratefully embraced their Savior as they learned of His forgiveness. But then, as they began to walk through their Christian life they began to wander a little in their faithfulness to the Savior who offers Himself in love, saying ...”HmMMMthat savior over there looks pretty good...I think I'll check him out.”

9. What possible “other Gospel” (or “other savior”) could there be? Doesn't seem possible, does it? How could any “savior” be a better “savior” than Jesus?

There couldn't.

But our own sinful nature plays a little trick on us. Our pride starts us to thinking, “Well, yes, I need a Savior...yes, I'm a sinner...but I'd rather not feel like such a loser. I'd rather feel like my Savior loved me because I'm so loveable. I will do better in this area, or in that area...or I will do this extra good deed, or that

one....and that will make me better in His eyes...I'll be more *worthy* to be saved." And in so thinking we slide away from the side of the One Who died so that we could be worthy. We begin to listen to another Gospel – the Gospel of works. We begin to love another savior – the one we've made up in our minds.

What works do we turn to as we so "quickly desert" the only real Savior? Our own good works. Baptism. Communion. Church attendance. Church membership. Feeding the poor. Clothing the naked. Being nice to our neighbors. You name it. The list can be as long as you make it.

But, you will probably say, those are not bad things! Those are the things Jesus wants us to do!

True. But Jesus wants us to do those things because we love Him, ***not*** to get Him to love us.

Paul is blown away at how soon the Galatians began to be attracted to the gospel of good works, the gospel which says, "Sure, Jesus is the Savior, but you also need to save yourself." If they came to Christ as hopeless sinners, deserving nothing but death and punishment, gratefully accepting the free gift of salvation, then how can they now be so fooled by a gospel which tells them they need to "do" something to "help" God save them?

10. Why is this something to be upset about?

After all we've seen just in these first ten verses, you probably already know the answer to this question, don't you? Jesus is all in all. He's the only one who deserves any glory. And He offers salvation as a gift. As soon as anyone tries to "pay" for that gift with good works, then the "good-worker" gets a little glory, too, right? But that isn't God's way: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* Eph. 2:8&9

Saying that anyone can help get themselves saved is like throwing sewer water on a beautiful white wedding gown. Disgusting. Something worth getting upset about.

11. In your opinion, what is the solution to falsehood?

The solution is truth. Paul knew this. He knew that a letter "telling it like it is" was exactly what the churches in Galatia needed to forever put to bed the lies. He spends the next six chapters reminding the Galatians Who they fell in love with...Who paid the price for every sin....Who will give them the ability to conquer sins in their lives....and Who will keep them safe until the end.

12. :10 What is not motivating Paul?

People's opinions. If Paul had wanted to be popular, he would have changed his tune long ago....because the Gospel message makes people mad. It got him in big trouble many, many times. No – Paul wasn't trying to gain the approval of any group of people anywhere. He was telling the truth...and paying a great price to do it....because the truth was going to set people free.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

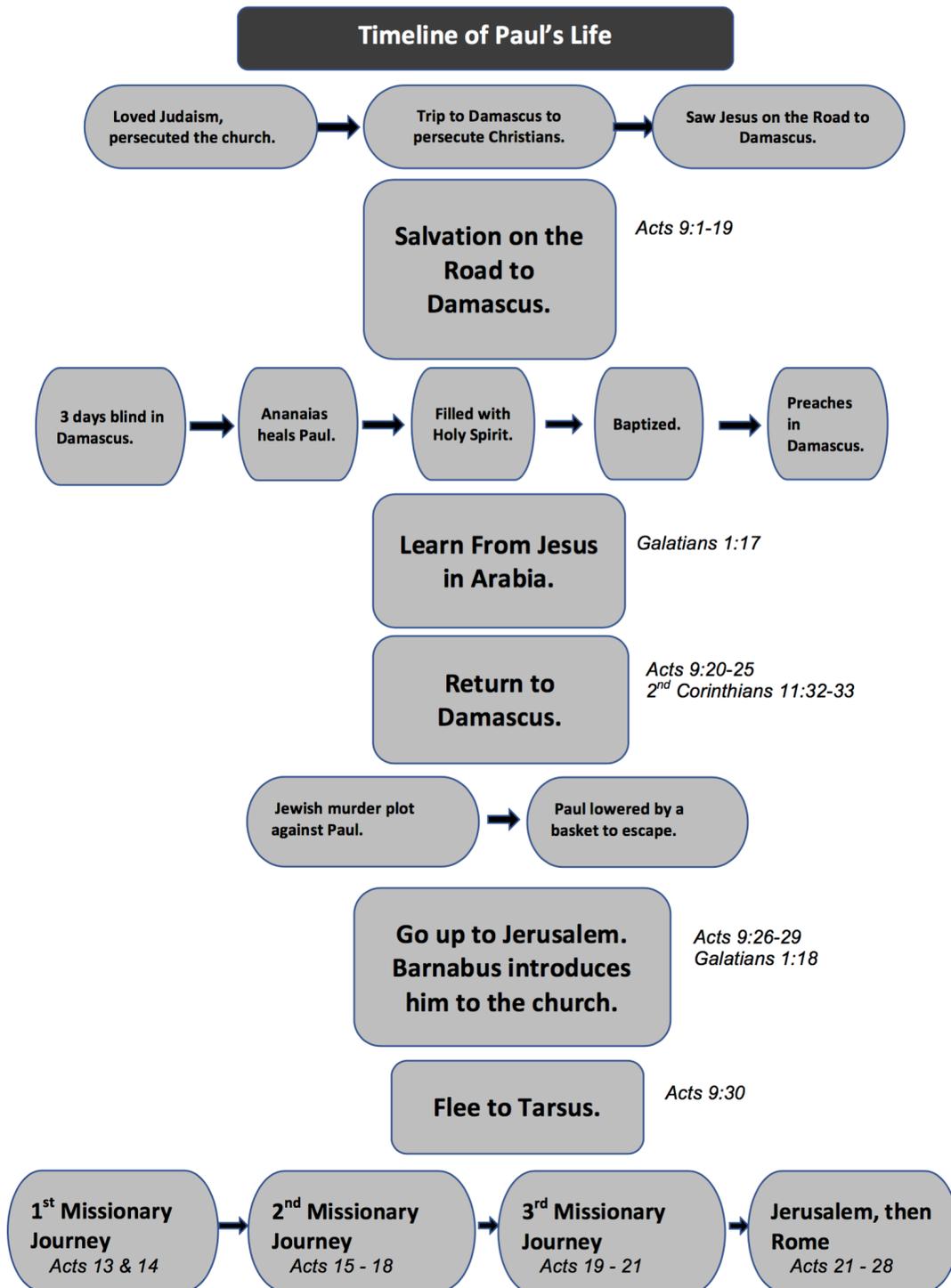
13. Do I understand what the Gospel really is?
14. Am I willing to get upset when the Gospel is twisted?
15. What am I supposed to do when I see that the Gospel is not being presented truthfully?
16. How motivated am I by trying to please people when it comes to the Gospel?

Lesson 2

Questions for you to Answer

Galatians 1:11-24 "What I'm Writing to You is No Lie!"

1. :11&12 Where did Paul get the Gospel message?
2. :13-14 What was Paul like in his life previous to knowing Jesus?
3. :15&16 What specific job did God give to Paul?
4. :15 Paul didn't meet Jesus and believe in Him until he was an adult. Why, then, does Paul say God "*set me apart from birth*"? (see *Ephesians 1:4* and *Ephesians 2:10*)
5. :16&17 As soon as Paul became a believer what did he not do? What did he do?
6. :16-24 On the following page is a simple timeline of Paul's life as he became a believer in Jesus, and then an apostle of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep an eye on this timeline as we talk through this lesson and the next.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

7. Look at *Philippians 3:4-7*. What did Paul give up in order to preach the Gospel message?

8. Does God ask people to make changes in their lives when they believe in Him?

9. Does God ask every believer to preach the Gospel full-time, as a missionary or Pastor?

10. Have you ever considered doing just that? If so, what have your thoughts been about it?

Lesson 2

Answers

Galatians 1:11-24 "What I'm Writing to You is No Lie!"

1. :11&12 Where did Paul get the Gospel message?

Paul makes a bold statement here. He says he didn't get the Gospel message from any man...not even the men who knew Jesus, walked with Him, and were apostles. Not from Peter, John, Andrew...not from any man.

He got the Gospel message straight from Jesus Christ. Why is that so important? Is Paul preaching a Gospel message different from that of Peter, John, Andrew, etc.?

No. Definitely not. It's the same message all of the apostles were teaching everywhere they went after the resurrection of Jesus.

What's important here is that Paul, too, is an apostle. He has equal authority and responsibility with all of the other apostles. It's important for Paul's readers to know they can trust everything Paul tells them, and to treat it as absolutely true, knowing that it comes from one who has personally met and known Jesus. They need to know that Paul's words to them are actually coming from God, not just from himself.

The apostles were given a directive from God. They were eye-witnesses of the fact that Jesus literally existed and was a man and God at the same time. They needed to teach and preach the truth about Jesus...His life, His ministry, His death, His resurrection...so that the world could believe in Him.

Yes, other people throughout the hundreds of years since then have carried the same message to the world...but those of us who have done that have never actually seen Jesus. The apostles were unique. They had a unique job to do so that the story we would someday tell could be substantiated.

Paul's message was the truth – the Gospel – he had seen Jesus....learned the Gospel message directly from Him. He was an apostle.

Well, OK...when did he actually see and talk to Jesus? Keep reading – he saw Him on the Damascus road...and then after that, he was instructed in the Gospel by Jesus Himself.

2. :13-14 What was Paul like in his life previous to knowing Jesus?
- He intensely persecuted the new church
 - He was zealously learning and practicing Judaism

3. :15&16 What specific job did God give to Paul?
God chose Paul to take the Gospel message to the Gentiles. After the start of the church, up until Paul's ministry, there definitely *had* been Gentiles who had believed in Jesus. (see Acts 10 for the story of Cornelius, a Gentile, coming to faith in Christ). But there had not been a focused attempt to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. Gentiles had simply believed as they happened to hear Jewish believers in Jesus talking about Him...or as they happened to see Jewish believers in Jesus living their new lives with Christ.

But God chose Paul to be intentional about going where the Gentiles lived and telling them the news about Jesus.

Did you notice in verse 15 when God chose Paul to do this? "*from birth*".

4. :15 Paul didn't meet Jesus and believe in Him until he was an adult. Why, then, does Paul say God "set me apart from birth"? (see *Ephesians 1:4* and *Ephesians 2:10*)
The LORD's decision to have Paul spread this good news was not made when Paul became a believer in Jesus. It was made long before Paul himself knew what his interests would be or where his life would take him.

Does that happen to other people, too? Does God decide in advance the things He would have us do with our lives? Look first at *Ephesians 1:4* "...*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world....*"

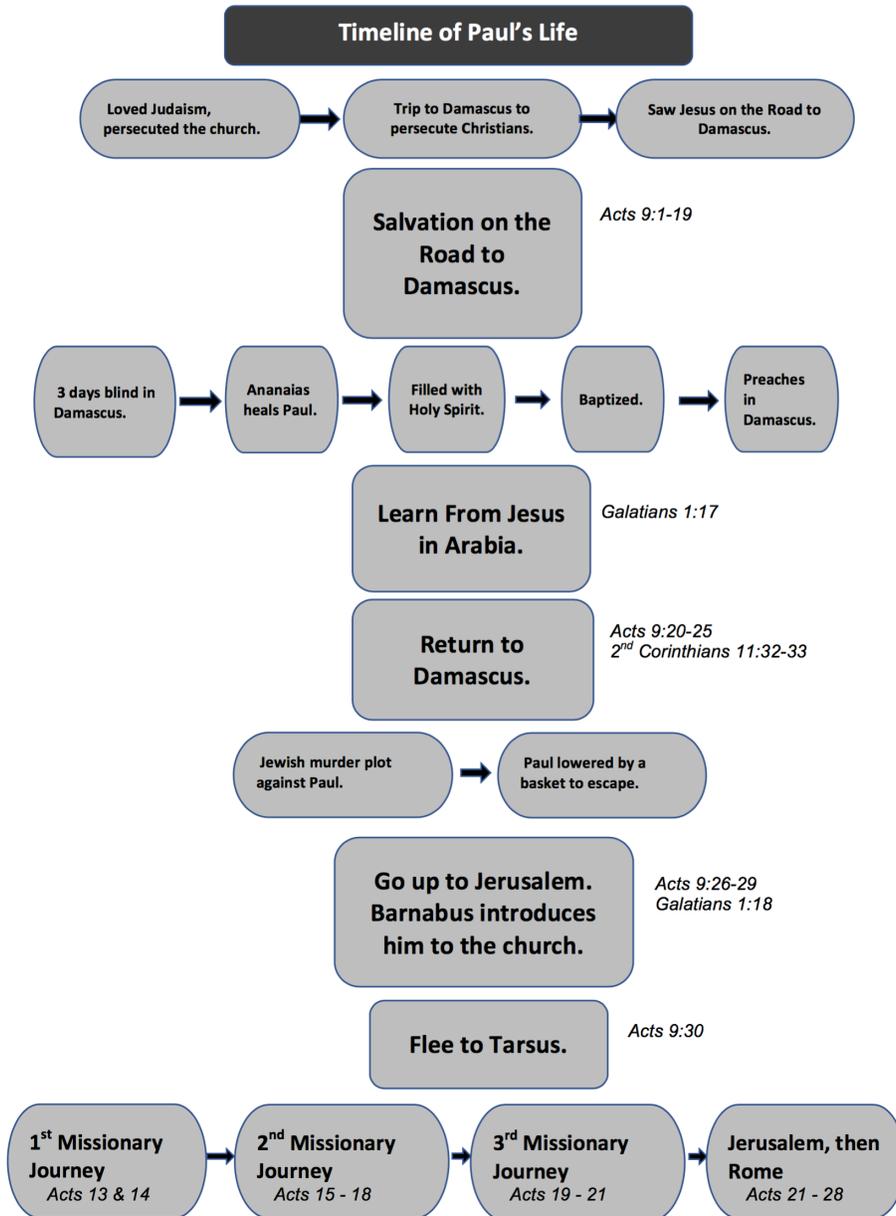
Then look at *Ephesians 2:10*. I love this verse. It follows on the heels of two other verses (:8&9) which let us know our salvation was a gift from God, not at all something we could ever earn for ourselves. And then, verse 10: "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*" The LORD knew all along when you and I would come to faith in Him. And He knew all along the things He wanted us to accomplish for Him. And He knows today what He still has planned for all of us to do before we die.

5. :16&17 As soon as Paul became a believer what did he not do? What did he do?

He did not consult any person.

He did go, instead, to Arabia – a wilderness – and was alone there - just Paul and His Savior.

6. Here's that simple timeline again:



APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

7. Look at *Philippians 3:4-7*. What did Paul give up in order to preach the Gospel message?

He gave up his position of power and pride within the Jewish community. He gave up his influence, his family (probably), his future (as he had it planned).

But, according to Paul, none it was worth anything compared to what he received. *“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)*

8. Does God ask people to make changes in their lives when they believe in Him?
9. Does God ask every believer to preach the Gospel full-time, as a missionary or a Pastor?
10. Have you ever considered doing just that? If so, what have your thoughts been about it?

Lesson 3
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 2:1-14 "Confrontation!"

1. :1 When did Paul go to Jerusalem again? Who did he take with him?
2. :2 Why did Paul go to Jerusalem then?
3. :2 What special precaution did Paul take on this trip?
4. :3-5 It looks like Paul was concerned, on this trip, that the group of leaders in Jerusalem would not support him in something he was teaching. Can you tell what it was?
5. :6-7 Did they support him or not?
6. :8-9 Why did they support him?
7. :10 What was the one thing the leaders in Jerusalem wanted Paul to do in his ministry which would be similar to theirs?
8. Why do you think they asked for this?
9. :11-14 At another time, in Syrian Antioch, what was Peter doing which caused Paul to confront him in front of everyone?

10. Why was it OK for Paul to openly challenge such a well-known and respected leader as Peter?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. What things are worth going “face-to-face” about?
12. If we need to confront another believer, how should it be done? (check out *Philippians 2:3&4*, *Philippians 4:5*, and *James 5:11&12*)
13. The apostles, just like us, had to learn and grow and find out how to work together to know God’s will and proclaim the Gospel together. What things have you learned from this little picture of Paul, Peter, and the leaders in Jerusalem?

Lesson 3

Answers

Galatians 2:1-14 "Confrontation!"

1. :1 When did Paul go to Jerusalem again? Who did he take with him? From the timeline in Lesson 2 we can see that Paul went to Jerusalem immediately after his salvation experience, probably for about two weeks. (*Acts 9:26-29* and *Galatians 1:18-19*) At that time Barnabus took him under his wing and spoke to other believers about him so that they would accept into their midst the one they had heard was trying to get them killed.

Now, in Galatians 2, we see that Paul returned to Jerusalem fourteen years after his salvation experience (about 49 AD). He brought with him Barnabus (who had been his faithful friend since his salvation experience), and Titus. On this trip Paul had his first missionary journey behind him, where he had ministered to the people in Galatia, the recipients of this letter.

While in Jerusalem this second time Paul would meet with some of the pillars of the now-almost-20-year-old church. His letter to the Galatians appears to have been written just after this meeting in Jerusalem. It is filled with the very things Paul so fervently talked through with the Jerusalem leaders.

2. :2 Why did Paul go to Jerusalem? He had a revelation from God he wanted to pass on to the Jerusalem leaders. It was time to talk about the Gospel. To agree together about the true and total message of the Gospel, for both Jew and Gentile.

3. :2 What special precaution did Paul take in this trip? He made sure to present his convictions and his experiences to the apostles in Jerusalem in private. He was not going to start this process by berating anyone...or embarrassing anyone. He wanted only to present the truth as the Lord had shown it to him, and to have his fellow-leaders discern, with the help of the Holy Spirit, God's definition of the Gospel. He had great respect for the other apostles of Jesus – and wanted to treat them that way. He expected them to do the same for him.

4. :3-5 It looks like Paul was concerned, on this trip, that the group of leaders in Jerusalem would not support him in something he was teaching. Can you tell what it was?

Verse 3 seems to indicate it had something to do with circumcision and with Gentiles (Greeks were Gentiles).

Verse 4 shows that Paul knew there were people out to destroy him because of something he was not doing.

It's really not too complicated. From the time of Abraham God's plan had been to choose a people group (the Jews) to display Him to the rest of the world. They were to eat, dress, marry, raise children, govern themselves and live in such a way as to open the eyes of the world to Who the Lord was...and how much the Lord wanted to love and have a relationship with people. They were to show, by their traditions and customs, their celebrations and temple worship, that the only way to approach this loving, all-powerful God was to admit sin and believe that the death of an innocent, pure sacrifice was the price necessary to pay for that sin.

The world would pass by the doors of Israel and see this dramatization of God.

The world would see God through the Jews, who were believers in the One, True God.

During this Old Testament era, any Gentile who believed in the One, True God through seeing the lives of the Jews was welcome to become a Jew – to practice the religion of Judaism – because at that time this was the only way to know and worship the One, True God.

But as Paul took the Gospel to the Gentiles he was not telling them to become Jews. He was not insisting they be circumcised. He was simply telling them to believe in Jesus.

Was Paul wrong? Should he have been encouraging Gentile believers to start synagogues, not churches? Should he have been telling them to begin obeying all the Old Testament regulations which had been given to the Jews? Had those regulations become null and void? Had the Ten Commandments become useless? Some Jewish believers in Jesus were quite sure Paul was wrong in the freedom he was taking. The meeting in Jerusalem was for the purpose of airing all those concerns and coming to some conclusions about the Gospel and the future of Gentile believers in the Jewish Messiah.

5. :6-7 Did they support him or not?

Yes. James, Peter and John – the “inner circle” around Jesus for his three years of ministry, the ones who should have known the Gospel message better than any, totally supported Paul and Barnabus in their ministry to the Gentiles. They did not require Paul to tell Gentiles to begin following Jewish laws. They did not require Gentiles to become Jews.

6. :8-9 Why did they support him?

They understood that the Gospel was for the whole world...and that the Gentiles were believing in Jesus the same way the Jews were – not by works – but by faith and grace.

7. :10 What was the one thing the leaders in Jerusalem wanted Paul to do in his ministry which would be similar to theirs?

Remember the poor. In other words, the new church, whether filled with Jews or Gentiles, would be characterized by unselfish giving to the poor – all over the world.

8. Why do you think they asked for this?

Because love for others automatically happens in a person who has believed in Jesus.

9. :11-14 At another time, in Syrian Antioch, what was Peter doing which caused Paul to confront him in front of everyone?

Later, after this Jerusalem Council meeting, after this issue had been once and for all settled, Paul heard that Peter was not acting the way he talked.

Peter had said he agreed that it was not necessary for Gentiles to become Jews.

Peter had said Gentiles did not need to be circumcised.

Peter had said he knew works did not save a man.

But Peter was not acting like he believed those things.

At first Peter had fellowshiped with Gentiles, eating with them. He had accepted them as brothers in Christ. But then a few men from Jerusalem had visited Peter and apparently made him ashamed that he was not acting like a “good” Jew. Or maybe those men had threatened Peter, telling him they would not support his authority as an apostle unless he lived the way they lived and steered clear of Gentiles who said they believed in Jesus but did not follow Jewish law.

Whatever the visiting men said or did doesn't matter as much as the fact that Peter had caved. Paul heard about it. And Paul wasn't going to tiptoe around this one.

10. Why was it OK for Paul to openly challenge such a well-known and respected leader as Peter?

- Paul was an apostle, the same as Peter. Equal authority.
- Peter had already agreed to the truth.
- Other Jewish believers were beginning to follow the example of Peter – he was leading them astray. He was confusing them.

So Paul confronts him – in front of others – and demands an answer: “If you, a Jew, are free (free from always doing works in order to try to please God), why do you think Gentiles should not be free?”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. What things are worth going “face-to-face” about?
12. If we need to confront another believer, how should it be done? (check out *Philippians 2:3&4*, and *Philippians 4:5*, and *James 5:11&12*)
13. The apostles, just like us, had to learn and grow and find out how to work together to know God's will and proclaim the Gospel together. What things have you learned from this little picture of Paul, Peter, and the leaders in Jerusalem?

Lesson 4
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 2:15-21 “Crucified with Christ”

1. :15 How is Paul being sarcastic in this verse?

2. :16 Can anyone ever be made right with God by obeying the law?

3. Why not?

4. :17 If I sin even after I have placed my faith in Christ, does that prove that Jesus is OK with sin?

5. :18 So if I sin (and I do) after becoming a believer in Jesus, what does that prove?

6. :19 What does the law do for us, then?

7. :20 Once I ask Christ to be my Savior, how does my life change?

8. :21 If I ignore the grace of God, and just keep trying to be good enough on my own, what am I saying about the death of Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

9. Why is it so hard for people to understand the grace of God?

10. If *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."*, (Galatians 2:20) how does that help me with my daily struggles with sin after I become a Christian?

11. Paul talks in more detail about this very thing in *Romans chapter 7:7-25*. Read that passage and compare yourself to Paul. Are you more like him as he describes himself in:
Verses 15-20
Or
Verse 24
or
Verse 25

12. Have you been crucified with Christ? If so, you are a different person than you were before Christ – because the "old you" died and the "new you" came to life. Do you see evidence of that in your life?

13. If not, what needs to change?

Lesson 4

Answers

Galatians 2:15-21 “Crucified with Christ”

Shortly after I became a Christian at seventeen, I heard this phrase – “*crucified with Christ*”. It didn’t make any sense to me. Did that mean we actually hung on the cross with Him? OK – maybe not “actually”, but “symbolically”? But, even if we “symbolically” hung on the cross with Him, why would that be? Wasn’t He the one Who made the sacrifice? What good would it do for me to be on that cross?

Was being crucified with Christ something I had to try to do? Or was it something that just happened without my knowledge? Did it mean that once I was crucified with Christ I would never struggle with sin again? And if I did struggle with sin after becoming a Christian, did that mean I had never been crucified with Christ? Did I have to do it over and over again? But Christ isn’t crucified over and over again...so how would that work? On and on...you get the picture. It was a confusing phrase.

I think I have finally come to understand it a little– I’ll try to explain it to you as we go through these last verses of Galatians 2. But go easy on yourself. If you don’t quite “get it”, just let it cook for awhile. Some truths in scripture are so valuable they simply take time to seep down into all the cracks and crevices of our spirits.

We start here in verse 15, where Paul is in the middle of a thought – so back up and read verse 14, where Paul is relating his words to Peter as he confronts him about his hypocrisy because he was talking one way and living another...

1. :15 How is Paul being sarcastic in this verse?

You see, many of the Jews had become a little bit proud of their heritage. They were God’s “chosen people”. God had chosen them, out of all the people groups on earth, to be His special people. They were given laws and traditions, celebrations and blessings and rules which set them apart from all other nations. They knew the most about God...and about how He wanted people to act. God didn’t intend them to be proud about this. He intended them to realize they didn’t

deserve this special attention...that they were sinners in need of a Savior just like the rest of the world.

But, being sinners, they ignored the intent of God and began patting themselves on the back for being the chosen ones...after all....wouldn't God choose the best?

And, because they thought of themselves as "chosen", they also thought of all the other nations as "sinners"....worse sinners than they were.

So now you see Paul's sarcasm here in verse 15. "*We who are **Jews by nature** (the best ones), and not **sinners of the Gentiles** (the lowest of the low)...*" (words in parentheses are mine).

He's reminding Peter of how proud he had become in disassociating himself from Gentile Christians just because he was a Jewish Christian.

2. :16 Can anyone ever be made right with God by obeying the law? And then Paul goes on to remind Peter that even Peter, as a Jew, had learned there was no way to fully obey the law. As a young man I'm sure he had tried and tried and tried to keep all the laws of the Old Testament, only to find that his small successes were nowhere near the standard God required: perfection.

God, in His perfection, does not require that we simply try hard and do our best. Because He is perfect, we must be perfect, too, in order to have fellowship with Him.

No one can be made right with God by obeying the law...

3. Why not?
Because perfection, of course, is impossible.

That's why the world needed a Savior. No person on earth could save himself. No person on earth could be perfect. So we needed a Savior. Whether Jew or Gentile didn't matter. Both Jew and Gentile were in the same boat - unable to be perfect, unable to keep the law.

Peter knew that. That's why he had joyfully believed in Jesus. At some point in his walk with Jesus on this earth, Peter had come to realize what a desperate sinner he was, and he had believed that Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, was the

One who could save him. He believed in Him...put his faith in Him...and that was what made him perfect in God's eyes.

Paul knew that, too. Every Apostle knew that. Every follower of Jesus Christ knew that.

So why did Peter, who knew that faith in Jesus Christ was the only way to satisfy God's demand for perfection, turn around and say that Gentile people had to start trying to obey all the law in order to be right with God? It was impossible!

4. :17 If I sin even after I have placed my faith in Christ, does that prove that Jesus is OK with sin?

Now here's the kicker. Once a person places their faith in Jesus, they are perfect in God's eyes. But...they're not perfect, are they? Don't people still goof up? Still sin? Even after they have become Christians?

Paul asks a rhetorical question here (designed to make you think). To rephrase it – “Once I become a Christian, and then it becomes obvious I still am a sinner, does that mean Jesus doesn't care about my sin anymore? Does it mean I can keep on sinning now and not feel guilty?”

The answer is ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! Jesus hates your sin. He died because of your sin.

5. :18 So if I sin (and I do) after becoming a believer in Jesus, what does that prove?

When I sin even after I am a Christian, that just proves, without a doubt, that I still have my old sin nature, too. My natural reaction is to sin.

But...how can God still love me, then? How can He accept me into His presence if I am still a sinner?

Back up a minute and think...

6. :19 What does the law do for us, then?

The law (God's standards of right and wrong) gave me a picture of what I must be in order to please God. When I compared myself to the law I came up short. I groaned within myself because I wanted to please God, but I wanted to sin more...and I couldn't help myself.

The law showed me I couldn't do it. The law showed me I needed a Savior. The law "killed" me...the old me...so that I could reach out in desperation to the One Who could make me alive. All of that emotional and spiritual upheaval happened in the days, hours and moments before I asked Christ to be my Savior.

7. :20 Once I asked Christ to be my Savior, how did my life change? In that unbelievable moment when I reached out to Christ for my salvation, a miracle happened. The "old me" – the me that loved to sin and wanted to sin and couldn't keep from sinning – that "old me" was nailed to the cross with Jesus...and that "old me" died. It wasn't in charge any more. The "old me" no longer had the power to make me sin. Before that moment I couldn't keep from sinning. After that moment I had God's life in me...and God's life in me made a "new me". This "new me" was able to hate sin and choose righteousness instead of sin.

So...I was crucified with Christ when I believed in Him, when I committed my life to Him. I (the "old me") was crucified with Christ when I became a Christian.

????Big question here?????? So why do I still sin after I become a Christian?

Because from that moment on I can decide: Do I want to reach out in faith to Christ for my daily living? Or do I want to keep depending on my old self to get me through? Do I want to pray and ask God to help when I am tempted to sin? Or do I want to just keep trying harder and harder and hope my old self can do the job?

My old self is dead – but not gone. My old self is powerless over me unless I decide to let it be in charge. I have the ability to not sin when I choose to lean on Him. But I will inevitably sin when I choose to lean on myself.

Here's what it comes down to, practically:

When I am tempted to sin I have two choices:

- Try not to sin
...or....
- Admit I don't have the power to avoid sin, and fall on my knees before God in prayer, asking Him to work the miracle of keeping me from sin.

When I am tempted to worry, I have two choices:

- Try not to worry
.....or....
- Admit I don't have the power to not worry, and fall on my knees before God in prayer, asking Him to work the miracle of trusting Him instead of worrying.

When I am tempted to hate someone, I have two choices:

- Try not to hate
.....or.....
- Admit I don't have the power to not hate, and fall on my knees before God in prayer, asking Him to work the miracle of taking the hate out of me.

When I am tempted to view pornography, I have two choices:

- Try not to look
.....or.....
- Admit I don't have the power to avoid sexual sin, and fall on my knees before God in prayer, asking Him to work the miracle of making me love God's plan for sexual pleasure, not the world's plan.

Etc., etc. You name the sin, that's the way the grace of God works after I become a Christian. I don't live the Christian life by trying harder (that doesn't work). I live the Christian life by falling on my knees and asking God to do the work of changing me – and then I see moment-by-moment miracles.

The grace of God means that He will do just that, when we ask (that's what faith is...knowing what God says He will do, and asking Him to do it).

"I have been crucified with Christ (my old self is dead on the cross), it is no longer I (old me) who live (old self can no longer can force me to sin), but Christ lives in me (now I have the power of God Himself living in me), and the life which I now live in the flesh (the ability now to do what He wants), I live by faith in the Son of God (I can do what He wants because I am able to trust Him to change me) who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Will I still sin? Yes – but only when I choose to trust myself instead of trusting God.

8. :21 If I ignore the grace of God, and just keep trying to be good enough on my own, what am I saying about the death of Jesus? This should stop each of us in our tracks. If I am trying to be good enough for God in my own power, I am basically saying to God – "What you did on the cross is not enough...I have to help you." How silly is that? How rude is that?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

9. Why is it so hard for people to understand the grace of God?

10. If "*It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*", how does that help me with my daily struggles with sin after I become a Christian?
11. Paul talks in more detail about this very thing in *Romans chapter 7:7-25*. Read that passage and compare yourself to Paul. Are you more like him as he describes himself in:

Verses 15-20

Or

Verse 24

or

Verse 25

12. Have you been crucified with Christ? (Have you accepted Christ as your Savior?) If so, you are a different person than you were before Christ – because the old you died and the new you came to life. Do you see evidence of that in your life?
13. If not, what needs to change?

Lesson 5
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 3:1-14 "The Ten Commandments"

1. From memory, as much as you can, list the Ten Commandments:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.

2. :1-2 If you are a Christian, answer this: did you get saved and receive the Spirit of God by obeying these Ten Commandments?

3. :3-5 Do you walk successfully with God every day by obeying these Ten Commandments?

4. :6 Which commandments did Abraham obey in order to be considered righteous in God's sight? *Genesis 15:6*

5. :7 What does it take to be considered a "child of Abraham"?

6. :8&9 Did people in Old Testament times know about the fact that everyone, Jew and Gentile, could be made right with God by faith?...or did they think everyone needed to obey the Ten Commandments in order to be right with God?

7. :10 If a person is trying to obey the Ten Commandments and “do the best they can do”, what does God think of them?
8. :11 Where in the Old Testament is there proof that no one can be made right with God by obeying the Ten Commandments?
9. :12 Is obeying the law the same thing as living by faith?
10. :13 Since we are “cursed” if we try to get right with God by obeying the law, how did Christ turn things around for us? In other words, how do we get “un-cursed” if we can’t do it by being good enough or trying hard enough?
11. :14 What blessing given to Abraham comes to us Gentiles when we have faith in Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. Have you ever broken any of the Ten Commandments?
13. What does that make you?
14. Is there any way you can change yourself from a sinner to a righteous person?
15. Is there any way you can change yourself from a Christian who loses the struggle with sin to a Christian who wins the struggle with sin?
16. If there’s no way you can change yourself...are you stuck always struggling and losing the sin battle as a Christian?

Lesson 5

Answers

Galatians 3:1-14 "The Ten Commandments"

1. From memory, as much as you can, list the Ten Commandments:
 1. No other Gods before Me.
 2. No images – idols.
 3. Do not take My name in vain.
 4. Remember the Sabbath Day.
 5. Honor your father and mother.
 6. No murder.
 7. No adultery.
 8. No stealing.
 9. No lying.
 10. No coveting (jealousy).

(Exodus 20:1-17)

2. :1-2 If you are a Christian, answer this: did you get saved and receive the Spirit of God by obeying these Ten Commandments?
The answer is: No.

3. :3-5 Do you walk with God every day by obeying these Ten Commandments?
This is a little puzzling, isn't it? When I walk with God every day I do, indeed, reach for the goal of obedience to all God wants. But is it my effort to obey which keeps the Holy Spirit working in my life?

The answer is: No.

The miracles God continues to work in my life after I first believe in Jesus are there because of God's grace. He decides to love me. He decides to continue to love me. He decides to use me. He decides to move me from one stage of obedience to another. He decides to change me. He decides when to change me. He decides to continue to work on me when I fall down again and again and again. He never gives up on me...because of His grace.

I began believing because of grace. I keep believing because of grace. I began obeying because of grace. I'm not able to keep myself obeying. I have to continually trust Jesus every moment for the ability to obey the next moment.

My walk with Jesus is based on believing He is able to do what He has promised to do....not based on me trying harder and harder to be what He wants me to be.

Belief is where I began. Belief is how I continue. And in both instances I was given...and am given...the ability to believe – by the grace of God.

4. :6 Which of the Ten Commandments did Abraham obey in order to be considered righteous in God's sight? *Genesis 15:6*
None. The Ten Commandments didn't arrive until four hundred years after Abraham. He simply believed what God said.

5. :7 What does it take to be considered a "child of Abraham"?
Believe what God says. When any person, Jew or Gentile, believes what God has said, that person becomes a member of the family of God. A member of the family of faith. That person becomes a spiritual descendent of Abraham, because they have entered into a faith-relationship with the One, True God.

6. :8&9 Did people in the Old Testament times know about the fact that everyone, Jew and Gentile, could be made right with God by faith?...or did they think everyone needed to obey the Ten Commandments in order to be right with God?
God proclaimed to Abraham that all nations of the world would be able to have a right relationship with Him (God) by believing. By faith. This was not a secret. It was openly said to Abraham and then recorded so that all throughout history would realize that faith was the way to know God.

Moses and the Ten Commandments didn't come along until four hundred years later. God was talking to people through the Ten Commandments, yes – but the commandments didn't nullify the promise made to the world and to Abraham four hundred years before. They simply continued the process of people understanding Who God is, what His plan is for the world, and where the bar is set for perfection. (and therefore, why they needed a Savior.)

7. :10 If a person is trying to obey the Ten Commandments and “do the best they can do”, what does God think of them?

This is going to surprise us. He curses them. Why? Because the only way to be right with God is to be perfect. If anyone decides to try to obey all the law in order to be perfect, they will inevitably fall down somewhere...and God must curse them. They have not been able to obey the whole law.

8. :11 Where in the Old Testament is there proof that no one can be made right with God by obeying the Ten Commandments?

Look at *Habakkuk 2:4*. Habakkuk was an Old Testament prophet who was struggling with his own faith – but still he knew this one, basic fact: if I would be righteous, it has to be by faith...it can't be by obeying the law.

9. :12 Is obeying the law the same thing as living by faith?

Exact opposites. If I am “trying”, I am trusting me, not God. If I am “living by faith”, I am trusting God, not me.

Does that mean that living by faith means I don't have to “do” anything? Does faith mean I can sit back, sin as much as I want - “do” nothing for God?

No. Faith means I am trusting God to give me the strength and the “want-to” to “do”, and the ability to do it.

When I live by faith I still “do” – in fact I “do” more than ever – but I “do” because God is giving me the “want to”, not because I am making it happen.

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled’, but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

10. :13 Since we are “cursed” if we try to get right with God by obeying the law, how did Christ turn things around for us? In other words, how do we get “un-cursed” if we can't do it by being good enough or trying hard enough?

Only one way: Believe that Jesus is the One Who can “un-curse” us. He's the One Who curses us when we try to get perfect by obeying the law, (:10), and He's the One Who “un-curses” us when we believe He paid the price for our sin.

I didn't really understand it at the time, but when I asked Jesus to be my Savior...when I believed His death on the cross was enough to pay for my sins...I crossed over the line from a dead-dying-condemned-to-Hell-person...and became an alive-growing-headed-for-heaven-person.

And since that moment, the only steps of obedience in my life which have meant anything to God are the steps I have taken trusting Him to help me do them, not the ones I have taken trusting in my own ability.

11. :14 What blessing given to Abraham comes to us Gentiles when we have faith in Jesus Christ?

The blessing of being a part of a great nation of God, and knowing that the whole earth will be blessed through us.

If I am not a Jew by birth, do I become a Jew, then, when I ask Christ to be my Savior?

No. I become a Gentile child of God. A Gentile member of God's family. We Gentile believers in Jesus have many of the same blessings as the Jews, but we are Gentiles, still. Jews and Gentiles both become members of the family of God in the same way. Not by birth, but by belief in what God says.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. Have you ever broken any of the Ten Commandments?
13. What does that make you?
14. Is there any way you can change yourself from a sinner to a righteous person?
15. Is there any way you can change yourself from a Christian who loses the struggle with sin to a Christian who wins the struggle with sin?
16. If there's no way you can change yourself...are you stuck always struggling and losing the sin battle as a Christian?

Lesson 6
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 3:15-29 “So Why Do We Need the Law?”

1. Think of some examples of “covenants” (or...agreements) which are legally binding in our lives today.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Can any of these agreements be arbitrarily changed without the agreement of both parties?
3. :15-16 What covenant is Paul referring to here as he gives this illustration? (*Genesis 12:1-7*)
4. :16-18 Why can't the law, given four hundred thirty years later, change the covenant made with Abraham?
5. :18-20 What was the purpose of the law, then?
6. :21 Does the law act against the promises of God?
7. When someone commits a crime and is convicted, why is that person put in prison?
8. In prison, a person is punished for their crime, but what, also, could possibly happen while he/she is in prison...something wonderful?

9. :22-24 In what way does the law protect or help people?
10. :25 But once a person learns to come to God by faith, is the law still necessary to protect/help him or her?
11. :26-29 Once a person believes in Jesus Christ, he or she is “baptized” (immersed) into Christ. Fully dipped. Completely changed. Forever covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. How does this affect our relationships with one another?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. How am I living my Christian life? (choose one which best defines you.)
 - a. Pretty lazy & comfortable. Not trying to do much in the way of walking with Christ.
 - b. Trying hard to be what I should be – but falling down a lot.
 - c. Talking to Jesus a lot more – asking Him to help me be what I should be.
 - d. Reading my Bible, going to church, praying, witnessing a lot more than I used to – not because I’m working hard at it, but because Jesus has answered that prayer and has begun to radically change me on the inside...I am beginning to want to do these things!.

Lesson 6

Answers

Galatians 3:15-29 "So why Do We Need the Law?"

The people who were trying to confuse the Galatians were telling them they had to be circumcised (to become Jews) in order to keep the salvation they had received through faith. Not only was this confusing, it was also heresy. It was lies from Satan. And Paul is not going to give up here, in this letter, until he has effectively proved the falseness of those lies.

1. Think of some examples of "covenants" (agreements) which are legally binding in our lives today.
 - a. Marriage, Divorce.
 - b. Title Deed to home, or Mortgage.
 - c. Cell phone contract.

2. Can any of these agreements be arbitrarily changed without the agreement of both parties?

No, they can't. No one can simply walk into a recorder's office and ask for your marriage license and rip it up, walk away, and expect that that means the marriage is dissolved. No one can add a provision to your mortgage, saying, for instance, that it must be paid off in two years instead of thirty. And no mobile phone company can arbitrarily change the terms of a contract, either. None of those things can be done without your consent. You were one party to each of those "covenants", and so you have to agree to any change.

3. :15-16 What covenant is Paul referring to here as he gives this illustration? (*Genesis 12:1-7*)

Paul is saying, "Just as in our every-day lives we have covenants which cannot be changed, so covenants with God are the same. If God agrees to something, and I enter into a covenant with God based on that agreement, God cannot change the rules. Perhaps that is better said like this: God will not change the rules. God, because of Who He is, does not break promises...or change the rules. If God says something is true for eternity, then it is true for eternity.

So what was the covenant made with Abraham...the covenant which cannot be changed? That Abraham could be made righteous by believing in God. (*Genesis 15:6*), by taking Him at His Word. There is no mention in the Abrahamic covenant of something Abraham has to do to be made right with God. No laws to keep. He was asked simply to believe.

4. :16-18 Why can't the law, given four hundred thirty years later, change the covenant made with Abraham?

That covenant was not just for Abraham. It was for Abraham and his "seed". Or, in other words, for Abraham and all who also believed in God. All of the descendants of Abraham (descendants based on believing) were assured their righteousness would be based on believing God, not on their works.

Paul makes a distinction here between "seed" and "seeds" because if God had said "seeds" (plural) He would be extending the covenant only to all who had Abraham's blood in their veins. Abraham's seeds.

But since God said "seed" (singular), He was making it clear the covenant was with Jesus Christ, who was the seed (singular) of Abraham. So God's covenant with Abraham is also with Jesus Christ and therefore also with all who believe in Him, because they have Jesus' blood running through their veins – whether those people are of Abraham's blood or not.

Do you see the significance of the little "s" which was not added to "seed"? If the Bible had said "seeds", then we Gentiles would be excluded from this wonderful covenant with God – it would be for Jews only. But because the Bible said "seed", we gentiles are included in this covenant with God when we put our faith in Jesus, the same as Abraham did.

Abraham himself is part of that covenant. And every Jew and every Gentile who has ever believed in God (Jesus is God, so that automatically means everyone who has ever believed in Jesus) is part of that covenant, too.

So the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, could not set aside the promise of righteousness by faith. The coming of the law did not change the original promise to Abraham and to all who would believe in God after his time.

The inheritance of eternal life was given to all who would come by faith – by belief – to God (Jesus). The law did not change those terms. The coming of the law did not mean that people must from that point on obey the law in order to be righteous. Righteousness was promised to those who believed. The promise was still good.

5. :18-20 What was the purpose of the law, then?

Basically, the law was given so men would be protected until Jesus Christ would come into the world.

Protected?

Jews and Gentiles alike needed to know their need of a Savior. The world they lived in was full of sin. The nature of sin is that it grows. It gets worse and worse and worse...and those involved in it get less and less aware of how far into it they are sinking.

God sent the law by an angel to Moses, for the sake of the people, to keep them fully aware of their sin. Fully aware of how awful sin was...so that they would know they needed a Savior. So that they would reach out in faith to the God who had promised to send the Savior.

The law was for the protection of the people. To keep them aware of their sin so they would look for the Savior.

6. :21 Does the law act against the promises of God?

Paul is emphatic. "Certainly not!". If God could have given a law which would have saved people, He would have.

7. When someone commits a crime and is convicted, why is that person put in prison?

Punishment.

8. In prison, a person is punished for their crime, but what, also, could possibly happen while he/she is in prison...something wonderful?

That person could possibly hear the story of Jesus, realize that he/she is totally sinful, become convicted, within his/her heart, of personal sin. That prisoner could be convinced of his/her own sinfulness...and thus see his/her need of a Savior, and be set free of the true prison they have lived in all their life.

9. :22-24 In what way does the law protect or help people?

It "hems us in". It draws the box around us. It lets us know just how rotten we are...so that we despair of saving ourselves.

10. :25 But once a person learns to come to God by faith, is the law still necessary to protect/help him or her?

Once we believe in Jesus Christ, we do not need the law to point out our lack of righteousness. We have righteousness forever. But we do need the law to keep reminding us of how much we need to trust Jesus every day to give us the ability to live in God's ways.

11. :26-29 Once a person believes in Jesus Christ, he or she is "baptized" (immersed) into Christ. Fully dipped. Completely changed. Forever covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. How does this affect our relationships with one another?

We're all in this together once we have believed in Jesus. At the moment of our salvation each of us was baptized, by the Holy Spirit, into Jesus. We were totally immersed...covered over...by the blood of Christ, and from that moment on we were filled with the Holy Spirit, and we became qualified to stand in the presence of God. (*Romans 6:3-11, 1st Corinthians 12:13*)

No one is more worthy than another.

Yes, I am still "me" after I am saved. But no, I am no better in the eyes of God than any man, woman, Jew, Gentile, slave, rich man, or poor man.

We are all in this together. We are either children of faith – children of the man of faith, Abraham - or we are desperately wicked people who still need to learn of The Savior, and become children of faith.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. How am I living my Christian life?
- Pretty lazy & comfortable. Not trying to do much in the way of walking with Christ.
 - Trying hard to be what I should be – but falling down a lot.
 - Talking to Jesus a lot more – asking Him to help me be what I should be.
 - Reading my Bible, going to church, praying, witnessing a lot more than I used to – because Jesus has answered that prayer and has begun to radically change me.

("d" is where you want to be. "c" is how you get there.)

When I was first a believer in Jesus I heard from several people that I should read my Bible and spend some time with God every day. I tried. But it didn't work. There was always something else which seemed more important to do

when it came time to read my Bible. There were distractions, and emergencies, and little by little I just stopped trying.

Then I would go through a few days of tremendous guilt. I would try again, only to fail.

Finally, one day I was overcome with grief at what a rotten Christian I was. I couldn't even get my Bible out and read it every day. I fell on my knees and cried many tears, basically telling God I was giving up. I admitted that even though I knew I should read my Bible; I just didn't want to. That was it. I just didn't want to. I remember saying: "Please give me the want-to. Please change me into a person who wants to read her Bible. If you don't, it will just never happen. I'm sorry, but I know it's true. Please give me the want-to."

After I prayed that prayer I felt such relief. That was my only hope. If God could change me, then I would make it in the Christian life.

And, of course, He could. And He did. He gave me such a love for His word that I have never struggled like that again. I began to plan for ways to read my Bible, to look forward to it all day long. The Bible has become my favorite book, and talking to Jesus as I read it is what I live for. Because I finally learned how to keep the rules? No. Because God gave me the want-to.

Lesson 7
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 4:1-11 "Sons or Slaves?"

1. :1&2 In what way are the rich man's slave and the rich man's young child the same?

2. What changes a rich man's son to a different status than the slave?

3. :3 In what way were we, before our salvation, just like the rich man's slave or the rich man's young child?

4. :4&5 What changed our status?

5. :6 What proof do we have that we have changed from slave to son?

6. How does life change, practically, for the child turned son?

7. :7 How does life change for us, when we are no longer living like slaves?

8. :8 At what point in our life does this change take place?

9. :9 & 10 What were the Galatian Christians doing which so worried Paul (it made him realize they were living like slaves again)?

10. What things do we do which would also worry Paul? What things, in other words, do we do which show we are living like slaves again?

11. :11 Paul says he fears that he might have wasted his efforts on them...does that mean he thinks they accepted Christ, but now they might lose their salvation?

Lesson 7

Answers

Galatians 4:1-11 “Sons or Slaves?”

From Galatians 3:

- **Abraham**...an example of faith by believing in a promise, not by works.
- **Children of Abraham** – an example of a family who all have faith, not works, in common.
- **The Law of Moses** – an example of trying to be good enough for God, but never quite succeeding.
- **Human covenants** – an example of how a promise cannot be changed once made.
- **Prisoners** – an example of what awful condition we are in when under the law.

And today, in chapter 4, three more examples:

- **Young sons, heirs to a fortune** – an example of what life is like before salvation changes us.
- **Slavery** – another example of what life is like before salvation sets us free.
- **Sarah and Hagar** – an example of the difference between being children of a slave, or children of a free woman

Paul knows quite well how huge these questions are: “Am I saved by faith or saved by works? Do I live my Christian life by faith or by works?” And he hits it again, and again, and again, from angle after angle, to be sure his readers know without a doubt that **there is no work which endears us to God.** God first loved us, then drew us to Himself, and continues to love us because of Jesus – that’s all. Nothing we do makes us any more attractive to Him.

1. :1&2 In what way are the rich man's slave and the rich man's young child the same?

They both are under the authority of someone else. Whether a slave or a young (some day rich) child, freedom is not a part of their lives.

2. What changes a rich man's son to a different status than the slave?
Time. Coming of age. The slave never gets to change his position, but the heir someday does.

3. :3 In what way were we, before our salvation, just like the rich man's slave or the rich man's young child?

Before coming to faith in Jesus Christ we were all under the authority of the law. We couldn't turn around without bumping into the barriers which surrounded us. We would lie, and know we had sinned. We would steal, and know we had sinned. We would be sexually impure, and know we had sinned. We were slaves to the law – and the law would always tell us we were slaves – it could never set us free.

We had the offer of being heirs to a fortune – we had the offer of being loved by God...but we couldn't get ourselves out of our slave status.

4. :4&5 What changed our status?

We were "bought" out of slavery by Jesus. He died on the cross, and that death was the exact price necessary to be the purchase price for all of us who were chained in slavery. When any person believes in Jesus (true belief, not just mental agreement), the price Jesus paid is slapped down on the table, and the transaction is made. Our freedom is paid for. Now we are no longer slaves...we're sons. We don't get purchased from slavery only to wander homeless in the world. We're set free to be children of God. Sons. Heirs.

5. :6 What proof do we have that we have changed from slave to son?
At the moment of belief in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to reside within us – in our spirits – that part of us which communicates with God. We sense His presence as we see changes taking place in our lives.

- We want to be with God's people.
- We have love that was never there before.
- We have a great hunger for the Word of God.
- We have sensitive consciences...we just can't get away with sin without feeling awful about it...even the "smallest" sin can make us miserable until we admit it to God.

All of the above changes in us are the work of the Holy Spirit within us. When we see those changes, we have our proof that we have crossed over from hopeless slave to full-grown son.

6. In our example, how does life change, practically, for the rich child who is now grown up and is an independent son?

He has complete access to all of his wealth.

7. :7 How does life change for us, when we are no longer living like slaves?

As full-grown sons we have complete access to all of our Father's wealth. Who is our Father? God. So we have complete access to all the riches of God. We can have victory over life-long sins which have plagued us. We can tell others the Good News about Jesus and see them come to faith in Him. We can struggle with worry and doubt, and see them completely replaced by our inheritance, peace. We have all our needs met, and then some.

8. :8 At what point in our life does this change take place?

When we first come to "know God". In other words, when we become believers in Jesus Christ.

9. :9 & 10 What were the Galatian Christians doing which so worried Paul? (Whatever it was, it made him realize they were living like slaves again.)

In these two verses it looks like they were beginning again to observe special Jewish holidays and celebrations. Not just as a remembrance, either, but as a burden – something they had to do in order to please God.

But also it's obvious from verse 17 that there were specific people amongst the Galatian believers who were stirring them up – pushing them to get involved once more in things which would enslave them. In chapter 5, verse 2 it becomes obvious that these people were trying to tell the Galatian Gentile believers they had to be circumcised in order to be Christians.

10. What things do we do which would also worry Paul? What things, in other words, do we do which show we are living like slaves again?

This is going to differ for all of us. Anything which we are doing in order to make God pleased, instead of because we love Him, are going to go in this category.

Even any good, moral change in our lives, which we are trying to achieve in our own strength, is defined as us “living like slaves again”.

11. :11 Paul says he fears that he might have wasted his efforts on them...does that mean he thinks they accepted Christ, but now they might lose their salvation?

This is important. Scripture teaches over and over again that true believers in Jesus Christ do not ever lose their eternal life. *“My sheep hear my voice; and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”* (John 10:27-29)

True Christians never lose their salvation. So Paul could not be saying here that he is worried they might lose their salvation. We know that. So what is he saying in verse 4:11? *“I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.”*

What is he saying? Being a believer in Jesus Christ is not just about you. Your faith in Jesus, and your active, vibrant voice for Christ in this world, is also about those people who have not yet come to know Christ! When Paul preached to people and rejoiced in their belief in Christ, part of his rejoicing was in the fact that now these new believers in Christ would spread the word to others – and there would be even more believers in Christ.

Without believers who keep trusting Jesus and keep growing in their faith the spreading of the Gospel message will take much, much longer.

That’s why Paul was afraid for them. He wanted them to enjoy their Christian walk, yes, but more than that, he had a vision for the Gospel spreading...and that wasn’t going to happen with just him. Couldn’t. It was going to take every believer in Jesus Christ.

Lesson 8
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 4:12-33 “Sons or Slaves? - Part 2”

1. :12-15 How did the Galatian Christians treat Paul when they first met him?
2. :16 How are they treating him now...and why?
3. :17 What is the real goal of those who were teaching falsehood to the Galatians?
4. :18 Is Paul rebuking them for being passionate?
5. :19&20 What is Paul wanting to happen within these believers?
6. :21-23 Who were the two sons of Abraham spoken of here?
7. What was the difference in the ways they were born?

8. :24-28 What are the two covenants represented by the two sons of Abraham?
9. :29 What happened to the son born of the promise in Abraham's time?
10. :30 What happened to the son born in the ordinary way in Abraham's time?
11. :30 Which son of Abraham is the slave? Which is the fully-grown son?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. As a Christian, are you still trying, trying, and trying to be what God wants you to be?
13. If so, which son are you?
14. As a Christian, are you coming to Jesus and asking Him to show you His promises and to change you into a person who has an inner desire to be the person He wants you to be?
15. If so, which son are you?
16. If you realize you are acting like an Ishmael, not an Isaac, What action do you need to take as a result of this chapter?

Lesson 8

Answers

Galatians 4:12-33 “Sons or Slaves? - Part 2”

1. :12-15 How did the Galatian Christians treat Paul when they first met him?

They loved him greatly. They didn't care how sick he was, or how poorly he spoke. They loved him for bringing them the Good News and setting them free.

2. :16 How are they treating him now...and why?

But now that Paul has “popped their balloon”, in other words, told them they were being sucked into false teaching, they're mad at him.

3. :17 What is the real goal of those who are teaching falsehood to the Galatians?

The Galatians didn't realize they were simply being used. The ones who were leading them away from Paul's true message were simply jealous of Paul, and were trying to get their own “converts”.

4. :18 Is Paul rebuking them for being passionate?

Of course not. Paul, himself, was very passionate. But he wanted them to be passionate for the truth.

5. :19&20 What is Paul wanting to happen within these believers?

He wants spiritual maturity to be born in them, so that they will be protected from future bad doctrine.

How does this happen? Reading, hearing, knowing and being committed to the truth. And, according to *Ephesians 4:11-16*, as we are an active part of a body of believers – a church – the others in that body use their gifts from God to help us along on our path to maturity.

6. :21-23 Who were the two sons of Abraham spoken of here?
Isaac – son of Sarah. Ishmael – son of Hagar.

7. What was the difference in the ways they were born?
Ishmael was born because Abraham knew he had a promise from God of a future son, and saw that God hadn't acted yet, so he figured he needed to take matters into his own hands.

Isaac was born because Abraham knew he had a promise from God, and he trusted God to bring about the completion of the promise – he didn't try to do it himself.

8. :24-28 What are the two covenants represented by the two sons of Abraham?
The birth of Ishmael is compared to the Mosaic covenant – the one no one could keep.

The birth of Isaac is compared to the Abrahamic covenant – the one God said He would keep with no help from Abraham.

9. :29 What happened to the son born of the promise in Abraham's time?
Isaac – the son born of the promise – was persecuted by the son born in the ordinary way. The way of trusting in God is never popular with those who are trusting in themselves.

10. :30 What happened to the son born in the ordinary way in Abraham's time?
Ultimately, the son born the ordinary way was pushed out of the picture. He never was going to inherit anything – because the inheritance was only for the son born by faith.

11. :30 Which son of Abraham is the slave? Which is the fully-grown son?
Ishmael is the slave. Isaac is the heir.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. As a Christian, are you still trying, trying, and trying to be what God wants you to be?
13. If so, which son are you? (Ishmael – the slave)
14. As a Christian, are you coming in love to Jesus and asking Him to show you His promises and to change you into a person who has an inner desire to be the person He wants you to be?
15. If so, which son are you? (Isaac – the heir)
16. If you realize you are acting like an Ishmael, not an Isaac, What action do you need to take as a result of this chapter?

I have a friend who told me of her struggle, as a Christian, with anger. She spent many long years trying not to be an angry person and failing. She found a group of friends who studied the Bible together, and listened as they talked of their need to trust Jesus for every need, and not to keep trusting themselves. Finally, one day, with anger boiling inside of her, she looked up to Jesus and cried “Take it away, please, take it away.” And she kept crying it and kept crying it until she realized the LORD had done what she needed Him to do. He had changed her. She still gets angry now and again, but now she knows what to do – “Jesus, take it away, please, take it away.”

She’s an heir of all of God’s goodness, not a slave to her own inability.

Lesson 9
Questions for you to Answer
Galatians 5 “Here’s What Freedom Looks Like”

1. (:1) What is the freedom Christ has purchased for us?

2. (:2-6) Why would accepting circumcision be so bad?

3. (:7-12) So...whose fault was it that the Galatians were struggling with these truths?

4. (:13-15) How are we supposed to use our freedom?

5. (:16-26) So...what’s the obvious question here? How can I avoid this awful descent into slavery again?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

6. Be honest with yourself. Have you ever given your life to Jesus, and asked Him to be your Savior? Have you ever been set free?

7. If so, have you continued to trust Him...or have you moved away, back into slavery?

8. Has your slavery been one of being entangled again in the sins which used to control you?

9. Or has your slavery been one of being filled with pride as you did more and more “good” things – and slipping into that slavery of thinking you could do something to “help” God love you?

Lesson 9

Answers

Galatians 5 “Here’s What Freedom Looks Like”

1. (:1) What is the freedom Christ has purchased for us?

Before I believed in Jesus, I was able to do a lot of things: I could talk, walk, see, speak, think, have friendships, love my family, pursue dreams, enjoy memories....and lots and lots more. But even with all those abilities, as wonderful as they were, I did not have freedom. I was not free to choose to trust God. I was not free to choose righteousness. I was not free to love those who hurt me. I was a slave to the sinful nature I had been born with...and there was nothing I could do to free myself from being so tied up in sin that I couldn’t move in God’s direction. I was doomed.

But when Jesus opened my eyes to my hopeless condition (and yes, He had to be the One who opened my eyes...I really didn’t see it before He showed it to me), and then showed me that He had died on the cross in order to set me free from my entanglement...well....I just jumped into His arms! I realized suddenly that I needed and wanted Him more than anything in the world. And just as suddenly...I was free! Now I could trust Him when I was afraid. Now I could love the ones who didn’t love me. Now I could choose to do things God’s way! I was free to be what He had always wanted me to be.

Why would I ever want to go back to being a slave again?

2. (:2-6) Why would accepting circumcision be so bad?

Paul isn’t saying that circumcision is bad. How could it be? God thought of it and implemented it as a way for the Jewish nation to always remember they were a special people chosen by God to serve Him. (Genesis 17) They were to remember that they were different from all other peoples – set apart.

Circumcision, though, was never a way to be good enough for God...it was always a way to remember that the Jewish nation was not good enough for God,

but was chosen anyway. *“And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.”* (Genesis 17:11) It was a memory point...a sign...not an act which would purchase righteousness.

But somewhere along the line, circumcision had become a point of pride with the Jewish people. They circumcised their children and walked away feeling they had done something to be proud of – something which God would look at and say...”OK, now you have made yourself good enough to have a relationship with Me.”

And so when the church began to grow in the midst of a Jewish culture, there were many who believed that, of course, a person had to not only believe in Jesus, but also be circumcised...or else how could God be pleased with them?

But Paul, through the instruction of the Holy Spirit, knew better. Circumcision could not make a person right in God’s sight. And lack of circumcision could not make a person repugnant to God. What mattered was faith. Believing. Seeing what Jesus had done on the cross, and embracing Him, and nothing else. *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”* (5:6)

3. (:7-11) So....whose fault was it that the Galatians were struggling with these truths?

Paul got pretty hot about this! Look at *verse 12: “I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!”* Wow! Given the picture we all have in our minds with the topic of circumcision...that is extreme! And that extremeness is not only in the letters of Paul. In *Deuteronomy 7:10* Moses told the children of Israel that God *“will not be slack with him who hates Him. He will repay him to his face!”* The Judaizers were not just wrong in their thinking...they weren’t just misinformed or mistaken...oh no...they hated God!

Paul had reason to be extreme. The Holy Spirit had reason to be extreme. If anyone believed in Christ, and then began to trust in his or her own ability to do things to keep God happy with them...well....right back into slavery they would go. I’m not saying they would lose their salvation., but they would, with each added “good work”, become enslaved again to not trusting God, not loving others, and not being able to do things God’s way...and eventually not even seeing that’s what they were doing.

Could the Holy Spirit ever wake them up to this condition once they descended into it? Yes. That’s why Paul is being inspired to write this to these Christians.

4. (:13-15) How are we supposed to use our freedom?
So..terrific! I'm free! I don't have to obey the law anymore! Right? Nope.

The law is God's perfect way. We are not free to ignore the law...we're free to finally be able to follow the law! We're free to love others – and one of the best ways to love others is to do things God's way.

“But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” (5:15) Our freedom doesn't set us above other Christians, so that we can judge and condemn them. It sets us free to love them, to come alongside and help them, and to speak kindly and lovingly to them, knowing that we, too, were once enslaved to our own dangerous pride....and we could be enslaved again if are not careful.

5. (:16-26) So...what's the obvious question here? How can I avoid this awful descent into slavery again?

Walk in the Spirit. Paul tells us to do it. Then he shows us what the signs are of not doing it:

- Adultery
- Fornication
- Uncleaness
- Lewdness
- Idolatry
- Sorcery
- Hatred
- Contentions
- Jealousies
- Outbursts of wrath
- Selfish ambitions
- Dissensions
- Heresies
- Envy
- Murders
- Drunkenness, revelries...etc.

And what the signs are of doing it:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering

- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

So how do I do it?

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (:25) Live with Jesus. Spend time reading the Bible every day. Pray. Talk to Jesus all the time. Ask Him to help you be what He knows you can be. Trust Him for the power in your life.

Walk with Him. Talk with Him. Let your every breath remind you of Him. Embrace Him. Think of Him. Let His Words run through your mind continually.

Walk in the Spirit means Walk with Jesus. Give it all up again. Admit that you’ve done nothing to make yourself good enough for God. And then just begin to walk with Jesus every day.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

6. Be honest with yourself. Have you ever given your life to Jesus, and asked Him to be your Savior? Have you ever been set free?
7. If so, have you continued to trust Him...or have you moved away, back into slavery?
8. Has your slavery been one of being entangled again in the sins which used to control you?
9. Or has your slavery been one of being filled with pride as you did more and more “good” things – and slipping into that slavery of thinking you could do something to “help” God love you?

Lesson 10

Questions for you to Answer

Galatians 6 “The Brandmarks of Jesus”

1. (:1) There are lots of questions to ask in order to better understand this verse:
 - a. What does it mean to be “caught up in a trespass”?
 - b. What does it mean “You who are spiritual”?
 - c. What am I trying to accomplish when I want to “restore” someone?
 - d. What is a “spirit of gentleness”?
 - e. Why would each person need to “look to himself”? In what way would a “spiritual” person be “tempted” when trying to restore another believer?

2. (:2) Compare this verse to verse 5. Don’t these two verses seem to tell a believer to do two exactly opposite things? :5 “each one bear his own load.”, and :2 “Bear one another’s burdens.” How do you make sense of that?

3. (:2) Why does it “fulfill the law of Christ” when we bear one another’s burdens?

4. (:3&4) What yardstick should we use when trying to decide if we are improving in our Christian walk? What yardstick should we not use?
5. (:6) What does this verse mean?
6. (:7&8) Think back on what you have learned from the book of Galatians...what does “sowing to the flesh” mean? What does “sowing to the spirit” mean?
7. (:9) Why did Paul say this?
8. (:10) What are some ways we can “do good” to other believers in our “household of faith”?
9. (:11) This seems like a funny thing to say. What is Paul trying to prove?
10. (:12&13) How does Paul wrap up his warnings about the enemies of the Gospel?
11. (:14) What is the only thing worth boasting about?
12. (:15) In God’s eyes, does it count more to keep all the rules....or to be a trusting new person who needs God’s help to live?
13. (:16) What is the reward any of us receive for admitting our inability and reaching out to God for help?

14. (:17) What is Paul's greatest claim to fame?
15. (:18) Why do we still need the grace of God after we have placed our faith in Christ?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

16. Have you ever tried to "restore" a brother or sister? How did it go? What did you learn? How would you do it next time?
17. Whose burdens are you bearing right now?
18. Are you bearing your own burdens?
19. How does your Christian walk today compare to your Christian walk a few years ago? If it's better, what made the difference?
20. After this study in the book of Galatians, how have you changed? Do you think any differently about your relationship with Christ? Have you been challenged to do anything new or different?
21. Do you feel like your life is full of peace and mercy? If not, the book of Galatians can still help you. Read it over and over again. Memorize it. Ask the LORD to open up your eyes to His truth in this book.
22. What landmarks do you bear on your body?

Lesson 10

Answers

Galatians 6 “The Brandmarks of Jesus”

1. (:1) There are lots of questions to ask in order to better understand this verse:

a. What does it mean to be “caught up in a trespass”?

A believer in Jesus Christ who has let a particular sin totally consume or wreck his/her life.

b. What does it mean “You who are spiritual”?

A believer in Jesus Christ who, though not perfect, is consistently walking with Jesus every day.

c. What am I trying to accomplish when I want to “restore” someone?

To bring them back to a place of consistently walking with Jesus every day.

d. What is a “spirit of gentleness”?

Just like it sounds. Not harsh. Not condemning. Not judgmental. True words spoken in gentle love.

e. Why would each person need to “look to himself”? In what way would a “spiritual” person be “tempted” when trying to restore another believer?

It would be very easy, in this scenario, for the believer to become proud. Or to become so involved in someone else’s sin that they are tempted with that sin themselves. Or to get fed up with the believer who won’t change...and begin to dislike them.

2. (:2) Compare this verse to verse 5. Don’t these two verses seem to tell a believer to do two exactly opposite things? How do you make sense of that?

Look at verse 5 first. “each one bear his own load.” Every believer in Jesus Christ needs to set the bar here. It is up to each believer to totally take care of

himself. To walk with Jesus and grow and mature and not expect everyone else to take up the slack.

And now look at verse 2. “Bear one another’s burdens.” In those times when a believer slips and falls, or gets caught up in a sin, it is up to other believers to step in and help, fully expecting that fallen believer to get back on track and be someday in a position to not only carry his own load, but also to carry someone else’s when the need should arise.

3. (:2) Why does it “fulfill the law of Christ” when we bear one another’s burdens?

Because Christ bore our burdens. He taught us this new life by simply living it in front of us.

4. (:3&4) What yardstick should we use when trying to decide if we are improving in our Christian walk? What yardstick should we not use?

The yardstick I should use is, interestingly, myself! I need to compare myself with myself. What does that mean? I should compare my spiritual progress with where I was a week ago, a month ago, a year ago. It’s like a cross-country meet. Each runner compares his time with his best time ever. Yes, he is trying to beat the guy in front of him or the guy behind him...but mostly he’s trying to beat his own best time. When you use this measuring stick, you won’t be limited by others’ limitations, or discouraged by your own limitations. You will simply be praying that God will help you trust Him more and more all the time.

5. (:6) What does this verse mean?

If someone is pouring out their life into you – teaching you spiritual truths – you are not to take this for granted, as if they somehow owe you something. On the contrary, you owe them, and should show it with your actions.

6. (:7&8) Think back on what you have learned from the book of Galatians...what does “sowing to the flesh” mean? What does “sowing to the spirit” mean?

Sowing to the flesh is basically that attitude which says: “I am going to try harder and harder to be what Christ wants me to be.” Sowing to the spirit is saying: “I know I can’t do this on my own. I bow my knee before you, Jesus, and ask that You would empower me...change me...so that I can do it.”

7. (:9) Why did Paul say this?

Because Paul knew, maybe better than anyone else, that it was possible to get discouraged. Look at *1st Corinthians 4:11-13*: *“To this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.”*

8. (:10) What are some ways we can “do good” to other believers in our “household of faith”?

So many things come to mind here. Giving a gift. Babysitting for free. Cleaning a bathroom. Bringing a meal. Gift certificates. Do laundry. Say a kind word. Bring a smile. It’s endless, isn’t it? Sometimes it just takes being intentional about it. The “thought” doesn’t count for much here, if that’s all we do.

9. (:11) This seems like a funny thing to say. What is Paul trying to prove?

Proof that this letter is indeed from him, not someone else. The fact that he references the “bigness” of his writing might substantiate the guess that Paul had some well-known problem with his eyes. (see *Galatians 4:13*)

10. (:12&13) How does Paul wrap up his warnings about the enemies of the Gospel?

One more time. They are looking out only for themselves. Don’t trust what they are saying.

11. (:14) What is the only thing worth boasting about?

The shameful cross of Christ.

12. (:15) In God’s eyes, does it count more to keep all the rules....or to be a trusting new creature who needs God’s help to live?

After everything we’ve read in Galatians... the answer here is obvious, isn’t it?

13. (:16) What is the reward any of us receive for admitting our inability and reaching out to God for help?

Peace and mercy.

14. (:17) What is Paul's greatest claim to fame?
His suffering. The marks in his body which show the beatings and other things he has endured because of his witness for Christ.

15. (:18) Why do we still need the grace of God after we have placed our faith in Christ?
We need daily grace. The grace that enables us to do what God has planned all along that we would do. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* (Eph. 2:10)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

16. Have you ever tried to "restore" a brother or sister? How did it go? What did you learn? How would you do it next time?
17. Whose burdens are you bearing right now?
18. Are you bearing your own burdens?
19. How does your Christian walk today compare to your Christian walk a few years ago? If it's better, what made the difference?
20. After this study in the book of Galatians, how have you changed? Do you think any differently about your relationship with Christ? Have you been challenged to do anything new or different?
21. Do you feel like your life is full of peace and mercy? If not, the book of Galatians can still help you. Read it over and over again. Memorize it. Ask the LORD to open up your eyes to His truth in this book.
22. What "brandmarks" do you bear on your body?

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