

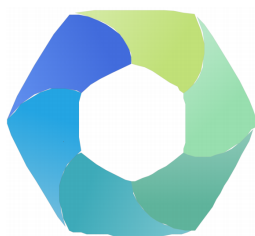
#ReligionMustFall



Bible Studies in Galatians

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RESOURCES

#ReligionMustFall
(Bible Studies In Galatians)
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#ReligionMustFall (Galatians)

STUDY 1

Introducing Galatians

Galatians is the most passionate and urgent of the New Testament letters. Paul, the author, is astonished and angry about what was happening in the churches of Galatia. Not many things have changed since then! Throughout history and to this day, Galatians has had a very contemporary ring to it, as it challenges people to have faith in Christ ALONE.

1. What was happening in the churches of the province of Galatia, that caused Paul to write this letter? Consider these verses:

- 1:6
- 3:2-3
- 4:9-11
- 4:17
- 5:3-4
- 6:12-13

2. Why then is Paul so angry? What was wrong with them adding circumcision and the observance of special days to their religion? See:
 - 5:2

3. What does Paul say is the only way to be right with God (ie justified)?
 - 2:16-17

The question that Galatians is answering is this: "How can a sinner be justified or made right with God?" The Galatians, though they had previously trusted in Christ, were beginning to think that obedience to God's laws (especially the law about circumcision) needed to supplement their faith in Christ for righteousness to be sustained. Paul in Galatians however, was teaching that justification is God's act of removing guilt and the penalty of sin while at the same time declaring the sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. Righteousness from God is credited to the sinner's account through faith alone, without works.

4. How is the phrase **#ReligionMustFall** therefore being used in this Bible Study series? What has been your experience of religion?

5. How urgent and passionate do you feel about the truth of the Gospel? What could be some of the reasons you feel this way?

Our prayer for **#ReligionMustFall** is that we will discover and be strengthened by the same deep truths of the Christian Gospel which brought about the 16th century Reformation:

- ***Sola Fide*** (faith alone): we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ alone;
- ***Sola Gratia*** ("grace alone"): we are saved by the grace of God alone; and
- ***Solus Christus*** ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Saviour, and King.

Q1: What is the Christian gospel based on?



The gospel is rooted in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(Galatians 1:1-5)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage?
2. What alternative answers would non-Christians give to that question today?
3. What answers were the Christians in Galatia hearing from the unbelievers of their day? (Take a look at the rest of Galatians).
4. Why does Paul start his letter this way?

★ *How central is Jesus to 'your' gospel, both in what you believe and what you share with others? What gospel do you 'preach'?*

continued...

Q2: What is the outcome of believing the Christian gospel?



The gospel delivers us from sin and the present evil age to the glory of God.

(Galatians 1:3-5)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage?
6. What is sin and what makes this present age evil?
7. What is unique about Jesus that he is able to offer rescue?
8. How did Jesus implement the will of God and bring about this rescue?

★ *What do you, and what should you, depend on to receive the grace and peace of God?*

Galatians 1 : 6 - 12

Q3: What is the outcome of believing a different gospel?

TRUTH
#3

There is only one gospel and to depart from it is to be damned.

(Galatians 1:6-9)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.6-9.
2. Why is Paul so agitated? (Compare how Galatians begins to Paul's other letters).
3. What 'different gospel' were the Christians in Galatia being tempted to believe? What is the true gospel based on, according to v.6?
4. Why is the punishment for false teaching so severe?

- ★ *What steps can Christians take so that they are not thrown into confusion by false teachers?*
- ★ *How can Christians help one another to not be lead astray?*

Q4: What makes this gospel unique or different from other gospels?



*The gospel is ours by divine revelation
and not human imagination.*

(Galatians 1:10-12)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.10-12.
6. What is one of the great hallmarks of gospel preachers (like Paul) compared to those who teach a different gospel? Consider v.10.
7. Remembering v.1, what does Paul say about himself as an apostle and the message he preached? It may be helpful to consult Acts 9.
8. What response to the gospel should people make when it is truly preached?

★ *It is said that Matthew 7:1 is the new most famous verse in the Bible. Was Paul right (and can we ever be right) to condemn the beliefs of others?*

Q5: What is it that causes someone to believe the gospel?

TRUTH
#5

The gospel is grounded in a gracious election.

(Galatians 1:15)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.13-24.
2. What did Paul contribute to his salvation? What did he need to be saved from and what lead him to become a Christian?
3. What lead to Paul becoming a preacher? Listen to Paul tell his story in Acts 26:12-18.
4. Why can we trust Paul's teaching and writing?

★ *Do you look to your heritage, knowledge, zeal, traditions or morality as the basis for a relationship with God, or to God graciously calling you to himself?*

★ *See 1:24. How do you feel about your salvation, and that of others?*

Q6: What is our responsibility when people drift from the gospel?

TRUTH
#6

The gospel of grace and freedom is constantly in danger of being lost and needs to be defended.

(Galatians 2:4-5)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.1-5.
6. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem?
7. What did some people wish to compel Titus to do? Why?
8. Why did Paul not give in to their demands concerning Titus? What big issue is at stake?

- ★ *What things in church life could be introduced as 'compulsory' for salvation (or be implied to be)?*
- ★ *What will it look like to enjoy freedom in Christ?*

Q7: Does God distinguish between people, in the matter of salvation?

TRUTH
#7

The gospel that saves Gentiles is the same gospel that saves Jews.

(Galatians 2:7-9)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.6-10.
2. What was the historical background to the Jew / Gentile debate?
3. What was the outcome of Paul's visit to Peter, James and John? (Take note that in v.7 the words 'Gentile' and 'Jew' have been used to translate 'uncircumcised' and 'circumcised'.)
4. Why was this the outcome? See v.9.

★ *What should be the characteristic of all true Christian ministry? What should always be the emphasis? What must always be rejected?*

Q8: Does God desire Christians to be distinct from each other after salvation?

TRUTH
#8

There are ethical imperatives that follow the gospel, but no ethnic distinctions in the gospel.

(Galatians 2:12-14)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.11-14.
6. What was Peter doing that angered Paul?
7. In what way was Peter 'not acting in line with the gospel'?
8. What had fueled Peter's hypocrisy and what was fueling Paul's anger?

- ★ *In what ways could Christians generally, and you specifically, fall into hypocrisy like Peter?*
- ★ *Would you be prepared to tell a friend that they were acting hypocritically if they were 'not acting in line with the Gospel'?*

Q9: What is the gospel?

TRUTH
#9

The gospel is good news that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ and not by works of the Law.

(Galatians 2:15-16)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.15-16.
2. What does it mean to be 'justified'?
3. What two options are put forward in this passage for justification? What do these refer to?
4. Why does one of these options lead to justification and the other not?

- ★ *How do these verses make you feel? Angry? Horrified? Relieved? Grateful? Why is that the case?*
- ★ *What is the usual response to the question: 'How can I be right with God?' and what is the Biblical response?*

Q10: What is the mark of the Christian life?

TRUTH
#10

The gospel of grace not only reveals the love of God and justifies sinners, but also enables the Christian life.

(Galatians 2:17-21)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.17-21.
6. What remains true in the life of all Christians, even though they have been justified? What does that prove and not prove?
7. "The Christian life begins with grace and continues with good works." Is this statement true or false? Why or why not?
8. What should Christians be living for? How is this even possible?

★ *How are you tempted to live by law having been justified by grace?*

★ *What are you living for?*

Q11: How does someone receive the Holy Spirit?

TRUTH
#11

We receive the Holy Spirit by faith in the gospel, the same Spirit who both justifies and sanctifies.

(Galatians 3:2-5)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.1-5.
2. What does it mean to 'receive the Spirit'?
3. How does one receive the Spirit? What are other views concerning receiving the Spirit?
4. What does the means of receiving the Spirit tell us about how we should live the Christian life?

- ★ *By what process are people justified? See v.5b especially.*
- ★ *Who is currently hearing the gospel from you? What different ways can we employ to get people to hear the Gospel?*

Q12: How did people get right with God before Jesus?

TRUTH
#12

The gospel that saved Abraham in the past is the same gospel that saves us in the present.

(Galatians 3:7-9)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.6-9.
6. Read the story of Abraham in Genesis 15:1-6. What was Abraham's faith based on and what did it result in?
7. What was Abraham NOT saved by? What DOES bring the blessing of God to people?
8. How is it that Paul could call God's words to Abraham 'the gospel' in v.8.

- ★ *Have you perhaps got tired or bored of living by faith in the gospel? Are you open to pursuing other things?*
- ★ *What is it that sustains the Christian life? See v.5b again. What things could you do to help you hear the gospel clearly?*

Q13: What is the result of choosing law over grace?

TRUTH
#13

Relying on good works for salvation does not save, it curses.

(Galatians 3:10-11)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.10-11.
2. What is God's expectation of those who live by the law? Is it sufficient to say: "As long as my good outweighs the bad, I will be ok"?
3. What is the result of not doing everything the law says?
4. What is the only way to be justified?

- ★ *Does it trouble you that your good, moral, unbelieving family and friends are under the curse of God?*
- ★ *What are you currently doing to help them see that they can only be justified by faith?*

Q14: How is it possible for law breakers to avoid the curse of God?

TRUTH
#14

The gospel is the good news that Christ has redeemed us from the curse as our penal substitute.

(Galatians 3:13-14)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.13-14.
6. What is the meaning of redemption?
7. What did Jesus' death accomplish negatively? See v.13.
8. What did Jesus' death accomplish positively? See v.14.

- ★ *Do you feel that you deserve to be under the curse of God?*
- ★ *What does Jesus' death under the curse of God mean to you?*

Q15: What is the historic origin of the gospel?

TRUTH
#15

The gospel is rooted in a covenantal promise that precedes the giving of the law.

(Galatians 3:17)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.15-18.
2. Put v.16 (which explains Genesis 12:1-7) into your own words.
3. What is the relationship between the promises of God and the law of God?
4. What does the inheritance that God promised his people depend on?

★ *What is your inheritance depending on: God's promise to you in the gospel or your ability to keep the law?*

Q16: What is God's intended role for the law in our lives?

TRUTH
#16

The law is good because it shows us our sin and leads us to trust Christ alone by faith alone for salvation.

(Galatians 3:24-25)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.19-25.
6. What purpose does the law fulfil, according to v.19 and 22?
7. What purpose does the law fulfil, according to v.23-24?
8. How does Jesus relate to the promise and to the Law?

- ★ *What do you feel and what should you feel when you hear the 10 commandments read out?*
- ★ *Do you recognise that your unbelieving friends are prisoners to sin and the law and that their only hope for salvation is Jesus?*

Q17: What does the gospel result in amongst those who believe it?

TRUTH
#17

The gospel unites us to Christ where we are all one in him.

(Galatians 3:27-29)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.26-29.
2. What does it mean to be 'baptised into Christ' and how does this happen? Also see 1 Corinthians 12:13.
3. What are the results of this baptism vertically?
4. What are the results of this baptism horizontally?

- ★ *How have you / are you endeavouring to be part of God's family?*
- ★ *What is your relationship like with other members of the family? Are you one with them?*
- ★ *Does it look to the world that you 'belong to Christ' and that you 'have clothed yourself with Christ'?*

Q18: Is the gospel not a display of the Father's cruelty to the Son?

TRUTH
#18

*The gospel is the combined work of
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

(Galatians 4:4-6)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.1-6.
6. What is the reality for all people without Christ, according to v.1-3?
7. Explain the illustration in v.1-4.
8. Explain the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in bringing those who are slaves to sin to have the full rights of sons.

- ★ *Are you willing to acknowledge that you were a slave to the basic principles of the world?*
- ★ *Do you truly rejoice in the fact that if you are in Christ you have received the full rights of sons?*

Q19: How does God relate to those who believe the gospel?

TRUTH
#19

The gospel of redemption leads to our adoption as children of the Father and frees us from enslaving rules and rituals.
(Galatians 4:7-11)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? Consider v.7-11.
2. How do you become part of God's family and what privilege do family members have?
3. How were the Galatians displaying a return to slavery?
4. Why does rule keeping result in slavery?

- ★ *How are you tempted to turn back to rule keeping rather than resting in the sonship won for you by Jesus?*
- ★ *What can we do practically to keep ourselves from being ensnared by 'weak and miserable' things?*

Q20: How do Christians feel when other Christians depart from the gospel?

TRUTH
#20

Faithful ministers will be passionate for the truth of the gospel even if it results in anguish and rebuke.

(Galatians 4:12-20)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See v.12-20.
6. What was Paul's relationship with the Galatians like initially? What is it like now?
7. What were some people agitating for in the Galatian churches?
8. What is Paul's feeling about the Galatians and what is his goal for them?

- ★ *Should Christians accept the drifting of fellow believers? How does your answer fit with society's views of tolerance?*
- ★ *One of the marks of being captured by the gospel is joy (v.15). Would you say that you feel gospel joy? Why or why not?*

Q21: What does faith in the gospel lead to eternally?

TRUTH
#21

Works salvation leads to slavery and Mt. Sinai, but gospel salvation leads to freedom and the New Jerusalem.

(Galatians 4:21-31)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See 4:21-31.
2. Paul uses the story of Abraham and his sons as an allegory. What is he using the allegory to illustrate?
3. What does faith in the law lead to, and what does faith in the gospel lead to?
4. What happens when these two viewpoints of salvation come into contact with each other? Consider v.29.

★ *Have you rid yourself of slavery to the law and come to depend on the grace of God fully?*

★ *How are you being persecuted at this time, by those who depend on self rather than on Christ? Pray for one another.*

Q22: Is it possible to be saved by obeying the law?

TRUTH
#22

To pursue salvation by works obligates one to keep the entire law perfectly.

(Galatians 5:1-3)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See 5:1-3.
6. How does 5:1 relate to Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-29?
7. What is wrong with depending on a few works for salvation?
8. What does it mean to be free in Christ?

★ *In what ways can we help one another 'stand firm'?*

★ *Is there anything that is causing you to not stand firm at this time?*

Q23: What will be lost by pursuing justification by works?

TRUTH
#23

To be justified by works is to fall away from justification by grace through faith, which not only saves, but also sanctifies.
(Galatians 5:5-6)

1. How do you see this to be true from the passage? See 5:4-6.
2. What does one miss out on when seeking justification by works and what does this mean?
3. How is a growing righteousness achieved in the Christian life?
4. How is faith in Christ made visible in the life of the Christian?

★ *How are you seeking to grow in righteousness?*

★ *In what ways are you displaying love, thereby displaying your faith in Christ?*

Q24: What will be the outcome for those who preach a false gospel?

TRUTH
#24

To preach a false gospel invites judgment and calls for the strongest condemnation from faithful teachers.

(Galatians 5:7-12)

5. How do you see this to be true from the passage? Consider 5:7-12.
6. Why are false teachers so dangerous and who stands behind all false teaching?
7. What is the result for those who preach the true gospel?
8. What does the phrase “the offence of the cross” in v.11 refer to?

- ★ *How tolerant are you of false gospels? Do you share Paul's passion for truth?*
- ★ *What can you do personally so as to not be thrown into confusion by false teaching?*

ACTION
#1

We will not indulge and pander to the flesh.

(Galatians 5:13, 16-21)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#2

In love we will serve others.

(Galatians 5:13-14)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

continued...

ACTION
#3

We will not brutalize one another in word or action.

(Galatians 5:15)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#4

We will live in the Spirit whom we received when we believed.

(Galatians 5:22-26)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

Galatians 6 : 1 - 5

ACTION
#5

We will engage in spiritual restoration.

(Galatians 6:1-2)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#6

We will be humble.

(Galatians 6:3)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

continued...

ACTION
#7

We will serve and do our part in the body.

(Galatians 6:4-5)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#8

We will bless those who teach us.

(Galatians 6:6)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#9

We will live to please the Spirit.

(Galatians 6:7-8)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

continued...

ACTION
#10

We won't grow weary in doing good, not because it saves us but because it is who we are in Christ.

(Galatians 6:9-10)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#11

We will accept persecution for the cross of Christ.

(Galatians 6:11-13)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

ACTION
#12

We will boast only in Christ and his cross.

(Galatians 6:14-15)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

continued...

ACTION
#13

We will pursue peace, mercy, grace and Christ.

(Galatians 6:16-18)

How does this action link to the earlier truths?

★ *What personal challenge does this offer you?*

How can I, a sinner, be right with God?

Is there a more important question to
know the answer to?

Galatians wants
us to be clear on
the great
doctrine
of justification:

that we are
saved by
grace alone, through
faith alone, in Christ
alone, for the glory of
God alone.

These studies in Galatians will help
to know and understand the truth of
the Gospel and then to live in the
light of that truth.



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