

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class ~ Galatians

The Wondrous Grace of God

Lesson - 1: Introduction to Galatians

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss the importance of the study of Galatians

1. Let's write a mock letter to regional churches. The issues in the churches are:

There are two gospels being preached

There are two ways of living being taught

There are two ways of thinking being advised

There are two ways to be right with God being offered

Note: When writing your letter, be certain to share who you are, on what authority you write, and your response to the issues in the regional churches.

2. List all you know about Paul, the author of Galatians?

3. Why was the Galatian epistle written?

4. To whom was the Galatian epistle written?

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Lesson – 2: Departing from the Gospel (Galatians 1:1-9)

Lesson Objectives:

Review Paul's apostleship

Define the gospel

Explore the purpose of the gospel

Explore dangers in departing from the Gospel

1. Why and how did Paul defend his apostleship?
2. According to Paul, what is the only solution for the problem of our sin?
3. What did the death of Christ have to do with the will of God?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, what did Paul mean by a different gospel?
5. What is the simple gospel? Why do so many people find it hard to accept?
6. What is the danger of mixing grace with works?

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Lesson – 3: Defending the Gospel (Galatians 1:10-2:10) – Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

Explore the driving force behind Paul's actions in the past and current

Examine Paul's preparation for the ministry

Develop a strategy to respond to accusations against your faith

1. What does Paul reveal as the driving force behind his actions in the past?
2. How do they compare with his current motivation?
3. Identify at least three areas where your actions are motivated primarily by the desire to please people. What changes if pleasing God became your motivation?
4. How does Paul's conversion demonstrate the truth of election and give authority to his ministry?
5. Where and how did Paul receive his initial preparation for ministry?

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Lesson – 4: Defending the Gospel (Galatians 1:10-2:10) – Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

Explore the driving force behind Paul's actions in the past and current

Examine Paul's preparation for the ministry

Develop a strategy to respond to accusations against your faith

1. How did the other apostles react to his message and ministry among the Gentiles?
2. What is Paul's attitude toward his religious credentials?
3. How does Paul's testimony in Philippians 3 corroborate his statement in Galatians 1:10-2:10?
4. Read Genesis 17:9-14. What was the point of circumcision for the Jews?
5. How do you respond to those that attack your character and motives and accuse of sharing a suspect faith?

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Lesson – 5: Crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:11-21)

Lesson Objectives:

Discover the true gospel

Uncover the purpose of the law

Contrast the teaching of the Judaizers and Christ

1. How did Peter deviate from the true gospel and become hypocritical? How did Paul respond to this?
2. What is the purpose of the law?
3. Who were the Judaizers? What did they teach?
4. How did Paul contrast the teaching of the Judaizers with the teaching of Christ?
5. How does the believer's union with Christ refute the argument of Judaizers and wrong behavior of Peter?
6. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ?

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Lesson – 6: Justification by Faith (Galatians 3:1-9) Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss a definition of faith

Explore the connection between the Holy Spirit and salvation

Examine Abraham's model to prove justification by faith

1. How do you define faith?
2. How do you define justification?
3. Why did Paul describe the Galatians as foolish and bewitched?
4. Some believers fall prey to formalism, substituting external ceremonies and rites for internal reality of personal growth in the Lord. Others fall into legalistic systems of dos and don'ts. To which of these errors are you most prone, and why?
5. What did Paul say about the connection between the Holy Spirit and salvation? When do believers receive the Spirit?

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Lesson – 7: Justification by Faith (Galatians 3:1-9) Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss a definition of faith

Explore the connection between the Holy Spirit and salvation

Examine Abraham's model to prove justification by faith

1. What is the connection between circumcision and salvation?
2. What evidence resulted in God's verdict declaring Abraham righteous?
3. Based on the passage, who qualifies to receive the same spiritual blessings as Abraham?
4. Read Romans 2:28-29. What is "circumcision...of the heart"?
5. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What light does this passage shed upon the timing of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

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Lesson – 8: The Law and the Promise (Galatians 3:10-18)

Lesson Objectives:

Contrast law and faith

Explore the law and the promise

1. How does Paul contrast the law and faith?
2. What does it mean that Christ “redeemed us”?
3. How did Christ become a curse for us?
4. In what ways do Paul’s words in Romans 7:1-25 echo the principles being taught in Galatians 3:10-18?
5. Read John 7:37-39. Instead of a cold, external law, what did Jesus Christ promise those who would trust and obey Him?

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Lesson – 9: The Purpose of the Law (Galatians 3:19-29)

Lesson Objectives:

Examine the purpose of the law

1. What laws, regulations, or ordinances do many people (even many Christians) routinely break? Why?
2. How does Paul describe the law in this passage? What does he suggest is its purpose?
3. What does this passage say about the universality of sin or the depravity of the human race?
4. Reread verses 25-29 and list everything that Paul says every believer is and has-no matter what their gender, race, or station in life?
5. What does it mean to be baptized into Christ?

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Lesson – 10: Children of God (Galatians 4:1-11)

Lesson Objectives:

Explore God's adoption process

Examine Christ being born under the law and His difference

Discuss being adopted by God

1. What does it mean that God has adopted you? How does God's Spirit confirm that fact in your life?
2. How has being under the law prepared us for sonship? To what ancient practice is Paul referring when he implies that the law functioned as a guardian or manager?
3. Like all humanity, Jesus was born under law. But how was Christ different from other people in his relationship and response to the law?
4. What does it mean to you to call God your Father, or your Daddy?
5. What concern did Paul express over the Galatians and their legalistic behavior?

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Lesson – 11: Christ in You (Galatians 4:12-20)

Lesson Objectives:

Explore the likeliness in Paul and current day Christians

Discuss God's goal for believers

1. When Paul urged the Galatians to become as I am, did he mean they were to:
 - a. Become missionaries

 - b. Become free from the pressure to conform to the law

 - c. Become circumcised? How do you know?

2. What memories of his time in Galatia did Paul relate? What is significant about these actions on part of the Galatian church?

3. How does Paul's analogy in verse 19 shed light on his feelings for the Galatians?

4. Read Romans 8:29. In light of the verse and Galatians 4:19, what is God's goal or believers? What does that mean?

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Lesson – 12: Children of Promise (Galatians 4:21-5:1) Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

Explore the promise afforded God's children

Review the Isaac account of promise

1. What particular promises of God have been meaningful to you recently? Why?
2. What does it mean to you that Christ has made you free?
3. In speaking of two covenants, how can you be sure that Paul was not contrasting two ways of salvation one for Old Testament saints and another for New Testament believers?
4. What does Paul say we enjoy as the children of heavenly Jerusalem?
5. What does it mean that, like Isaac, we believers are children of promise?

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Lesson – 13: Children of Promise (Galatians 4:21-5:1) Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

Explore the promise afforded God's children

Review the Isaac account of promise

1. Look at the births and early lives of Ishmael and Isaac, what hints of trouble do you observe?
2. Why did Sarah get upset and send Hagar away (Genesis 12:9-10)?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:12. What does this verse mean in light of Galatians 4:29, which speaks of ancient and present persecution? How would you explain these verses to someone unfamiliar with the Bible?
4. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:9. What does this verse say about the destiny of those who attempt to be justified on the basis of keeping the law?
5. How does the hope of heaven change the way you love now?

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Lesson – 14: Called to Freedom (Galatians 5:2-15)

Lesson Objectives:

Review the important issue that Paul observed

Observe what caused the Galatians to stumble

Explore the call to freedom

1. Did Paul view circumcision as an inherently bad practice? How do you know? What did Paul see as the more important issue instead?
2. What did Paul mean when he said that the Galatians ran well? What caused them to stumble in their race?
3. How do liberty and love work together? What should liberty produce?
4. How does Paul summarize the law? Whose words is he echoing? What point does he make with the quote?
5. Read 1 John 2:19. How does this passage address the idea of deserting Christ and the gospel and Paul discusses in Galatians 5:4?

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Lesson – 15: Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss what it means to live the Christian life
Contrast the works of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit
Discover what it means to walk by the Spirit

1. How would you summarize how to live the Christian life?
2. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind?
3. Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. Is he arguing that those who commit these sins prove they are not really Christians? Why or why not?
4. What are the results when we live in the power of our flesh? On the other hand, what happens when we live by faith in the power of the Spirit?
5. What light do verses 8-15 shed on the idea of walking by the Spirit?
6. Read Romans 6:6. What does it mean that our flesh has been crucified?

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Lesson – 16: A Grace-Filled Life (Galatians 6:1-18) Part 1

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss how to share your salvation by grace story

Examine the law of sowing and reaping

Explore what a grace filled life looks like

1. Reflect on your life and discuss what happened when you were confronted about sin in your life.
2. How would you tell someone what salvation by grace is all about?
3. What is involved in restoring a Christian brother or sister who has sinned?
4. What does Paul mean when he commands each believer to bear his own load?
5. How would you explain the law of sowing and reaping to a child?

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Lesson – 17: A Grace-Filled Life (Galatians 6:1-18) Part 2

Lesson Objectives:

Discuss how to share your salvation by grace story

Examine the law of sowing and reaping

Explore what a grace filled life looks like

1. What was Paul's point in his contrast of boasting in the flesh with boasting in the cross?
2. What evidence will there be in our lives if we are sowing to please the Spirit? What fruit will we reap?
3. Read John 13:34-35. Why is demonstrating love for fellow Christians so important?
4. Read 1 John 2:15-16 and Galatians 2:20. Describe what a true believer's relationship with the world will look like.
5. How can walking in the Spirit by God's grace lead to living a more holy life?

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Lesson - 18: Recap

Lesson Objectives:

Review the Galatians study to determine which Gospel you are relying on

1. Which Gospel are you relying on?
2. What were the two gospels?
3. What were the two ways of living?
4. What were the two ways of thinking?
5. What were the two ways of how to be right with God?
6. What is Galatians response the two ways?