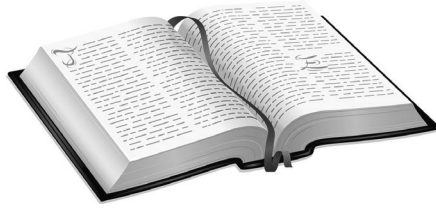


# *Bible Correspondence Fellowship*



## *Galatians Lesson*

The theme of Galatians is the apostle Paul's defense of the gospel of grace, without any ordinances of the Mosaic Law.

### **MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS LESSON:**

*For I would have you know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel which was preached by me is not of human invention. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. GALATIANS 1:11-12 NASB*

Judaizers were Jewish Christians who believed, among other things, that a number of the ceremonial practices of the Old Testament Law were still binding on Christians. Following Paul's successful campaign in Galatia, they insisted that Gentile converts to Christianity must abide by certain rites of the Law, especially circumcision.

Galatians is an eloquent and vigorous apologetic for the truth that man is justified by faith in Jesus Christ – by nothing less and nothing more – and that he is sanctified not by legalistic works but by obedience that comes from faith in God's work for him, in him, and through him by the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

## *Chapter 1*

**Please carefully read Galatians 1:1-24. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

1. (v. 1:1) In this chapter Paul defends his authority as an apostle in order to defend his message. Who chose Paul to be an apostle? Jesus Christ and by God the Father
2. (v. 1:3) Note Paul's greeting is used in all of his epistles. Two words are consistently used to introduce Paul's message. They are: grace and peace

3. (v. 1:4) Give the twofold purpose of Christ's death for us:

1. Jesus gave his life for our sins
2. rescue us from this evil world

4. (v. 1:6) What surprised Paul?

that you are turning away so soon from God

5. (v. 1:9) What did Paul say about anyone who preached any other gospel?

let that person be cursed

6. (v. 1:10) Why didn't Paul seek to please men? \_\_\_\_\_

If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

7. (vv. 1:11-12) Paul says he did not receive the gospel that he preached from man.

How did he receive it? by direct revelation from Jesus Christ

8. (Acts 20:24) What did Paul call this gospel? the Good News

The Galatians were being led astray by Judaizers (Jewish converts to Christianity) who told them they had to observe some of the things of the Law in order to be saved. Paul refers to his past way of life in the Jewish religion to show that the Law is not able to save anyone.

9. (vs. 1:15-16) When was Paul chosen to preach his gospel and how was he called of God?

even before I was born and God chose and called me by his marvelous grace

10. (vs. 1:11-18) After God saved Paul, he said that he did not see any of the 12 apostles for the space of three years (Also see Ephesians 3:2-13.). How does this show that he did not receive his gospel from any man?

Paul did not meet nor was he around any man that could have taught him the gospel

From whom did Paul receive his gospel? from Jesus Christ

11. (vs 1:18-22) In stating his independence from the 12 apostles and the kingdom gospel they preached, Paul said he saw only two of the 12 apostles, Peter and James.

Also he was unknown by the believers in Judea.

However, he did preach in the Gentile regions of Syria and Cilicia.

## Chapter 2

In the first chapter we learned that Paul received the gospel of grace by revelation of the Lord. He mentioned that although he had been zealous in the Jewish religion, he forsook it for something better, salvation by grace. Then he says that he had preached this message of grace years before he met any of the twelve apostles. Chapter Two records some events and statements that further show Paul's authority and the doctrine of justification by faith.

**Please carefully read Galatians 2:1-21. \_\_\_\_\_ Check**

1. (v. 2:1) Paul's second visit to Jerusalem was how many years after the first one? 14 year
2. (v. 2:2) How did Paul know that God wanted him to go to Jerusalem? He revealed it to him
3. (v. 2:2) What did Paul communicate (explain) to the leaders in Jerusalem?  
he shared the message he had be preaching to the Gentiles
4. (v. 2:3) Titus was a faithful preacher and companion of Paul. He came with Paul as an example of a Gentile believer. Titus did not observe which Jewish rite?  
he was not circumcised
5. (v. 2:4) Give two reasons why the false brethren came to this conference in Jerusalem.
  1. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus
  2. to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations
6. (v. 2:5) Why didn't Paul give into (yield to) these teachers?  
They wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for us
7. (vv. 2:8-9) We read of the leaders of God's kingdom program in Israel in these verses. What are their names? James, Peter, and John  
(Note: Peter is also known as Cephas.)
9. (v.2:8) Peter shows his authority as God's apostle to the Jews.  
Paul was given authority as an apostle to whom? Gentiles

10. (v.2:9-10) We read that the leaders understood the grace given to Paul to preach the gospel of grace to the Gentiles. Why did James, Peter, and John give Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship?

They recognized the gift God had given Paul

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What solemn agreement did the leaders make with Paul and Barnabas?

keep on helping the poor

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11. (vs 2:11-12) The scene changes to Antioch, a city far north of Israel in Gentile country. According to Acts 11:25-26, Paul and Barnabas taught many believers there for a year.

When Peter was visiting the church there, he made a serious error. What was it?

He first ate with the gentiles believers, who were not circumcised, but when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the gentiles anymore.

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12. In verse 14, Paul said that Peter and the others did not walk according to the truth of the gospel. What truth was he referring to? (See Galatians 3:28.)

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.

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For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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13. (vv. 2:15-16) Though Peter and Paul were Jews by birth, what did they both know? a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law.

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14. (vv. 2:19-20) Paul says he was crucified with Christ.

What did he mean by this statement?

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God.

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16. (v. 2:21) What does Paul mean when he says that Christ's death for us was unnecessary if righteousness could be obtained under the law?

If keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

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## *Galatians - Chapter 3*

In chapter three, Paul is asking the Galatians to decide how they are justified, either by observance of the Mosaic law or by faith in Jesus Christ and the gospel of grace they had heard.

**Please carefully read Galatians 3:1-29. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

1. (v. 3:1) What truth about Christ had been clearly given to the Galatians?

Jesus Christ's death

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2. (v. 3:2) Paul asked the Galatians the following question: "Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law or by believing what you heard?"

How would you answer the same question?

(personal answer / may vary)

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3. (v. 3:6) Why does Paul ask the Galatians to consider Abraham?

Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith

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4. (v. 3:7) The Jewish legalists relied on their descent from Abraham and their law keeping for acceptance with God. But who are the true children of Abraham?

those who put their faith in God.

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5. (vv.3: 8-9) What did the scriptures foresee?

God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith.

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6. (v. 3:10) What is the truth about those who rely on keeping the law?

those who depend on the law to make right with God are under his curse.

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7. (v. 3:11) Paul uses two quotes from the Old Testament, one from Psalms and one from Habakkuk, to show that God's principle of justification by faith is true throughout the Bible. **Read Habakkuk 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_ check.**

Write out the last part of Galatians 3:11 as it is written in the Old Testament.

It is through faith that a righteous person has life.

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8. (v. 3:13) How did Christ redeem us from the curse of the law?

When He was hung on the cross.

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9. (v. 3:14) The blessings of Abraham include the promise of the Spirit. In Ezekiel 36:27, a prophecy of the New Covenant, God said, "I will put my Spirit within you . . ."

How does this blessing come to us? through Christ Jesus

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How do we receive the promise of the Spirit? through faith

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11. (vv. 3:15-16) We read of the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 22:18.

**Please read \_\_\_\_\_ check.**

Who is the seed that is spoken of here? Jesus Christ

12. (v. 3:17) God made the covenant (promise) to Abraham 430 years before the Law was given. Did the Law cancel (do away with) the promise? NO

13. (v. 3:19) The Law was given through a mediator.

**Read Acts 7:37-38, John 1:17. \_\_\_\_\_ check.**

Who was this mediator? Moses

14. (v. 3:19) What was the purpose of the Law? Why was it given to Israel?

It was given alongside the promise to show their sins.

15. (v. 3:22) What does the Scripture declare about the whole world?

we are all prisoners of sin.

16. (vv. 3:23-25) The law is referred to as a schoolmaster or tutor.

Why are we no longer under this school-master or tutor?

It was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

17. (vv. 3:26-28) Paul refers to the work of the Holy Spirit because He baptizes (places) us into Christ.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

In Christ there is neither Jew or Gentiles, slave or free, male and female.

What are we in the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)?

we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit.

## *Chapter 4*

In Paul's day a child was under tutors and governors until he came of age, at which time the father declared his son to have full rights and inheritance in the family. Chapter 4 teaches us our position, with all of its privileges and inheritance as sons of God.

**Please carefully read Galatians 4:1-31. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

1. (vs. 4:1-2) How was the heir treated as a child?

not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had.

2. (v. 4:3) Paul mentions the elements of the world. This refers to the Law, the elementary religion of Israel, which instructed them in right and wrong as well as all the requirements given through Moses. How were children treated under this system?

They were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

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3. (vv. 4:4-5) How are believers made free from that Law?

God sent His Son.

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4. (v. 4:6) Romans 8:15-16, also written by Paul, is similar. How do we know that we are sons and that God is our Father?

God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.

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5. (vv.4: 9-11) The Law (the weak, elemental principles) told us what sin is but it could not save us from sin, so it was unable to provide deliverance.

What question does Paul ask (v. 4:9b)?

Why did they want to go back and become slave to the spiritual principles of this world?

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(v 4:11) Why does Paul fear for the Galatians?

That all my hard work with you was for nothing.

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6. (vs. 4:12-20) Paul makes a personal appeal rather than a theological one. In spite of his physical appearance and infirmities, how was Paul received by the Galatians when he first preached the gospel to them?

you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God.

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7. (vs. 4:15-16) There was once spiritual blessing and love for Paul, but now that he had reproved the Galatians for legalism, how does he feel they see him?

They saw him as their enemy.

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8. (v. 4:19) How does Paul refer to these immature believers? dear children

What is his desire for them? Christ is fully developed in their lives.

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9. (vs. 4:21-31) In explaining the difference between freedom and bondage, Paul uses the allegory of Abraham's two sons. **Read Genesis 16:15** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check.**

What was the name of Abraham's son of the bondmaid, Hagar? Ishmael

**Read also Genesis 21:3** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check.**

What was the name of the son of the freewoman, Sarah? Isaac

10. (v. 4:23) What was the important difference between these two sons?

Slave wife son was born in a human attempt about the fulfillment of God's promise.

son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of His promise.

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11. (vv. 4:26-27) The barren woman was Sarah. What did she represent?  
the heavenly Jerusalem

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12. (v. 4:28) Why are we like Isaac?  
we are children of the promise

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13. (vs. 4:30-31) To further separate the Galatians from the Mosaic Law, Paul refers to the scripture, "Cast out the bondwoman and her son . . . ." Since the bondwoman represents the Law (a slave to the Law) referring to verse 7, who is a person who is not under the works and ceremonies of the Law? we are children of the free women

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## *Chapter 5*

In Chapters 5 and 6 Paul urges believers to preserve their freedom in Christ and to walk in the Spirit. Christ has set the believer free. He is not under the Law or its bondage, yet he must not misuse his freedom.

**Please carefully read Galatians 5:1-26. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

1. (v. 5:1) What two things must we do to resist returning to bondage or slavery?  
don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

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2. (vv. 5:2-3) What would it show if a man submitted to the Jewish rite of circumcision?  
then Christ would be of no benefit to us.

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3. (v. 5:4) If a person was observing the law (works) to be justified (counted righteous), what had he done?  
you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

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4. (v. 5:5) The hope of righteousness refers to the perfect righteousness that will come with the redemption of the body at the resurrection. How are we to wait for this promise to be fulfilled?  
we who live by the Spirit wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us.

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5. (v. 5:6) In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. How does faith work?  
faith expressing itself in love.

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6. (vs. 5:7-8) **Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-26** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check.**

Paul often uses the word running to signify seeking the goal of Christ-likeness.

Paul wants the Galatians to know that they were hindered and persuaded by someone, but not by the one who had called them.

Who do you think hindered them? Satan

Who is the one who called them? God

7. (vs. 5:10-12) Paul suffered persecution for preaching against circumcision (the need to keep the Law), which is to say that he preached salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

**Read Romans 9:32-33** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check**

What is the offense (or stumbling stone) that Paul is referring to? cross of Christ

8. (v. 5:13) How are brethren supposed to use their liberty?

to serve one another in love

9. (v. 5:14) How are all the requirements of the law fulfilled?

by loving your neighbor as yourself.

What does this mean to you? (answers may vary)

10. (vs. 5:15-16) How are we to live (walk)? Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.

If we do this what will we not do? won't be doing what your sinful nature craves

11. (v. 5:17) The word lust by itself means “strong desire.” The NIV reads, “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit, contrary to the sinful nature.” This warfare in the believer, then, is between the Spirit and the sinful nature.

**Read Romans 7:18-23.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check**

These verses discuss the struggle between the old nature and the new nature in the Christian.

12. (v. 5:18) How does the believer escape bondage under the law?

by being directed by the Spirit.

13. (vs. 5:19-21) The sins listed are referred to in verse 19a as what?

Sinful nature

The believer will not practice these things if he is led by the Spirit. What happens to the unbeliever who practices these sins?

they will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

List any five of the sins: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties

14. (vs. 5:22-23) What fruit can only the Holy Spirit produce?

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

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15. (v. 5:24) In chapter one, verse 20 when Paul refers to our position in Christ; that we no longer live but Christ lives in us, what has happened to the old nature (the flesh)?

our old nature has been nailed to the cross.

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16. (v. 5:25) What does Paul say we should do if we are living in the Spirit?

follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

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## *Chapter 6*

**Please carefully read Galatians 6:1-18. \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

**Read John 15: 8-10, Romans 13: 8-10 and Galatians 5: 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Check.**

We are to love each other as we are to love ourselves. This is not prideful love but nurturing love, love that watches out for the well-being of others.

1. (vs. 6:1-5) How are we to restore a brother (fellow Christian) who is caught up in sin (trespass)? gently and humbly help that person onto the right path

Who is to restore a person caught in sin?

you who are godly

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Is it only the pastor's job? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes X No

2. (v. 6:2) In your own words write out the law of Christ (John 15: 9 – 13)

(Answer will vary)

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3. (vs. 6:3-4) Whose work are we to examine? We are each responsible for our own conduct.

What do you think we are to use as a standard of measurement? God's Word

4. (v. 6:5) Whose burden (load) are we to bear?

our own

5. (v. 6:6) The word communicate means to share or give. Who is to share with whom?

share all good things with those that are teaching the word of God.

To share “all good things” would not be just material giving but sharing spiritual gifts as well. Also see Philippians 4: 14-19.

6. (vs. 6:7-10) Paul is referring to God’s law of reaping the same things you sow.

**Read Genesis 1:12** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check.**

Those who sow to the flesh, in gratifying their own desires will reap decay and death

The one who sows to the Spirit can look for a harvest of Everlasting life

Name some things we can do to slow to the Spirit: (answer will vary)

7. (vs. 6:11-14) Paul declared that he would not glory in any religious tradition or practice of the law (as the legalists did). What did he glory in?

the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

The religious world ceremonies and legalism were brought to an end by the cross, so Paul said they were crucified to him. What, then, did he mean “and I unto the world”?

**Read Galatians 2:20** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check**

Paul mean: My old self has been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live,  
but Christ lives in me.

8. (v. 6:15) What counts and what is important for spiritual life?

whether we have been transformed into a new creation.

9. (v. 6:17) Paul suffered much for preaching Christ and the gospel of grace. What did Paul bear on his body?

the scars that show I belong to Jesus.

10. (v. 6:18) What phrase does Paul use in closing all of his epistles?

may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

What Bible Version did you use for this lesson?: \_\_\_\_\_

Your questions or Comments:

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