



“grasping Galatians”

A Five Week Bible Study

Background:

To get an idea of the context of Galatians spend time reading through the ESV Study Bible introduction to Galatians found at: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/galatians-introduction/#overview> and/or watch the introductory video from the Bible project.

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Week 1. Galatians 1v1-24

Reading: Galatians 1v1-24

(Hint: Read the passage in several different Bible translations and think through how they describe different words and phrases in different ways. Highlight any words that occur regularly and think through why Paul keeps using them.)

Questions:

1. Who gave Paul his authority and his gospel message?
2. Why is Paul so worried about the Church in Galatia? What is he confronting them about?
3. What ways can we in our Christian lives and in our Church be tempted to turn to a different Gospel?
4. How important is gospel truth to you? How is this shown in your life? ¹
5. In light of v10, what ways are we tempted to please others rather than living to please God?

Further reading/ watching:

- Galatians For You (Timothy Keller), chapters 1 and 2
- “*The Sweetest Words We Never Want to Hear*”, article by Marshall Segal, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-sweetest-words-we-never-want-to-hear#modal-602-nn0i6gua>
- “*Christ Suffered and Died to Deliver Us from the Present Evil*”, article by John Piper, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/christ-suffered-and-died-to-deliver-us-from-the-present-evil>
- Lectures by Douglas Moo, (Introduction to Galatians and Galatians 1), found at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-galatians-moo>

Hymns to listen to and respond in worship:

- To God be The Glory
- You Alone Can Rescue (Matt Redman)

¹ Question taken from *Galatians For You*, Timothy Keller, pg 23

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Week 2. Galatians 2v1-21

Reading: Galatians 2v1-21 (also read Acts 15v1-35)

Questions:

1. What controversy had caused Paul and Barnabas to go up to Jerusalem? What language is used in Galatians and Acts to describe how Paul responded?
2. In what ways could we be tempted today to add cultural practices to our faith and distort the Gospel?
3. What does Galatians 2v10 tell us that the Apostles were keen for Paul to do? The very thing he was keen to do also. Do you think it has a prominent place in the modern Church?
4. How was Peter not living ‘in step with the truth of the Gospel’? Do you think Christian rebuke is given and received regularly enough today? What might stop us from doing or receiving it?
5. What does Paul teach us here about being justified by faith in Christ?
6. What do verses 17-20 teach us about the Christian’s relationship to sin and responsibility to live out the Gospel?

Further reading/ watching:

- Galatians For You (Timothy Keller), chapters 3 and 4
- “*When A Pandemic Falls On The Poor*” article by Jon Bloom
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-a-pandemic-falls-on-the-poor>
- “*The Faith that magnifies grace*”, article by John Piper
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-faith-that-magnifies-grace>
- “*Love and The Denial of The Gospel*”, chapter 5 in *Love In Hard Places* by D.A. Carson
- Lectures by Douglas Moo, found at
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-galatians-moo>

Hymns to listen to and respond in worship:

- My Hope is Built in Nothing Less
- Christ Is All (Matt Boswell)

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Week 3. Galatians 3v1-26

Reading: Galatians 3v1-26 (also read Romans 3v21-4v25)

Questions:

1. Do we see the Gospel as just the message that brings us to faith or something we need every day for the Christian Life?
2. Why does Paul keep referring to Abraham? How does his references to Abraham in Galatians and Romans help us understand justification?
3. How does Paul explain to us the purpose of the Law in bringing someone to faith and then in the life of a Christian?
4. Why do you obey God’s Law? Do you ever obey it for the wrong reasons?²

Further reading/ watching:

- Galatians For You (Timothy Keller), chapters 5 and 6
- “*When Our Hearts Revert To Self-Reliance*”, article by Marshall Segal,
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/when-our-hearts-revert-to-self-reliance>
- “Faith From First To last”, sermon by Thomas Schreiner
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/word-of-the-week/faith-from-first-to-last/>
- “*To Absorb The Wrath Of God*”, chapter 1 in *50 Reasons Christ Came to Die*, John Piper.
- Lectures by Douglas Moo, found at
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-galatians-moo>

Hymns to listen to and respond in worship:

- By Faith We See The Hand of God
- Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

² Question taken from *Galatians For You*, Timothy Keller, pg 88

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Week 4. Galatians 3v26-5v15

Reading: Galatians 3v26-5v15

Questions:

1. How does the Gospel supersede ethnic and cultural differences (Galatians 3v27-29)? In what ways can we live this out today and be different to our world?
2. What makes us a Son rather than a Slave? How does this illustration by Paul describe our relationships with the Gospel and with the Law?
3. When are you most in danger of living as a slave and not a son? ³
4. What do we learn about Paul's ministry in Galatia (Galatians 4v12-20)? Compare that to how he still felt about them even in their error.
5. What do you think christian freedom means for you today?
6. How does Christian freedom motivate Christian love? (Galatians 5v 13-15)

Further reading/ watching:

- Galatians For You (Timothy Keller), chapters 7-10
- “*Freedom is To Be Like Him*”, article by Scott Hubbard, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/freedom-is-to-be-like-him>
- “*Authentic Freedom*”, chapter 2 in *The Contemporary Christian*, by John Stott
- “*Living in Sync With Gospel Freedom*”, Chapter 12 in *Bloodlines* by John Piper
- Lectures by Douglas Moo, found at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-galatians-moo>

Hymns to listen to and respond in worship:

- Hallelujah For The Cross (Shane and Shane)
- May The People's Praise You (Gettys)
- Abba Father (Sovereign Grace)

³ Question taken from *Galatians For You*, Timothy Keller, pg 102

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Week 5. Galatians 5v16-6v18

Reading: Galatians 5v16-6v18

Questions:

1. What do you think it means to ‘walk in the Spirit’ and not ‘in the flesh’?
2. Examine yourself: How can you see the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life? Do you have natural characteristics which could be confused with the fruit of the Spirit? ⁴
3. What do you think it means to bear each others burdens?
4. In what ways could we grow weary in doing good?
5. How does Paul tackle the issue of pride in chapter 6? Why is Galatians 6v14 the secret to defeating pride?
6. What have you taken away from studying Galatians?

Further reading/ watching:

- Galatians For You (Timothy Keller), chapters 11-13.
- “*How to Recognise The Holy Spirit*”, article by Scott Hubbard <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-recognize-the-holy-spirit>
- “*The Fruitful Life*” by Jerry Bridges
- “*The Wondrous Cross*”, chapter 1 in *The Cross* by Martin Lloyd-Jones
- “*Don't Grow Weary In Doing Good*”, article by David Mathis <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/dont-grow-weary-doing-good>
- Lectures by Douglas Moo, found at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/study-galatians-moo>

Hymns to listen to and respond in worship:

- O For A Closer Walk With God
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

⁴ Question taken from *Galatians For You*, Timothy Keller, pg 157