

Study in Galatians:

Background -

Paul's specific purpose in writing - The Galatia Christians had been influenced by very grievous false teachings that had undermined their faith in Christ alone for Salvation. (See 1:6. 3:1)

They had come under the influence of false apostles who had not only sought to undermine the Gospel that Paul had earlier brought to them, but to discredit Paul as a worthy apostle of God.

Paul is greatly concerned for their spiritual wellbeing and addresses the problem from various angles. He pleads with them not to lose their hope and confidence in the Gospel of Christ. He urges them to "stand firm" in their faith in Christ and "not be burdened again by the yoke of slavery" - by placing hope and confidence in their works and the observation of the law. (5:1.)

Paul affirms that God's Gospel is complete in the victory of the cross, the resurrection of Christ and the power of the Spirit of God in the Believer's life. (2:19-20. 5:16, 24-25.)

GALATIANS ~ fourteen Bible Studies for personal/group study.

AN OUTLINE OF PROPOSED BIBLE STUDIES & SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES.

Answers freely available

Request Answers for Galatians at jnixonj@gmail.com

number	Date of Study	PASSAGE in GALATIANS	THEME	Suggested Memory passage
1		1:1-12.	The indisputable Gospel of God.	1:3-5.
2		1:13-24.	Changed from persecutor to preacher.	1:15b-16a.
3		2:1-10.	Sent by God and confirmed by apostles.	Review 1 & 2.
4		2:11-16.	Can't mix salvation by faith and by the law.	2:16.
5		2:17-3:5.	Human effort cannot do the Spirit's work.	2:20.
6		3:6-14.	Righteousness can only be achieved by faith.	Review 4 & 5
7		3:15-22	God's promise in Christ is for those who believe.	3:22.
8		3:23-4:7.	Set free from the law by the coming of God's Son.	4:4-5.
9		4:8-20.	God's people's joy is in knowing and obeying God.	Review 7 & 8.
10		4:21-5:1	Children of the law OR children of promise?	5:1.
11		5:2 -15.	True faith is expressed through love.	5:13.
12		5:16-25.	The fruit of the Spirit distinct from sinful nature.	5:22-23.
13		5:26-6:10.	Having concern and responsibility for one another.	Review
14		6:11-18.	A new creation through the cross of Christ alone.	6:9.

The indisputable Gospel of God.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 1:3-5.

1. An apostle is someone "sent" on a special mission. What were Paul's qualifications as "an apostle"?
2. How would you summarise of the message Paul had been sent to bring?
3. What two things were the Galatians doing that astonished this preacher of the Gospel?
4. What approach was the enemy using to hinder the work of God in Galatia?
5. Did Paul think that he as an apostle sent by God could maybe at some later date receive an update that would change the Gospel message?
6. How did Paul very clearly declare that there could never be any update to the gospel already revealed?
7. From what Paul has already said, can you see how he is so sure that he has the right Gospel message? (PS. see how convinced he was about the Gospel – Acts 20:24!)
8. What had Paul been guilty of in the past, but if this had still been an influencing factor in his work it would have disqualified him from being a faithful servant of Jesus Christ?
9. What are three things Paul ruled out as having had any influence in the source of his Gospel?
10. What remarkable source did Paul claim for the message he proclaimed? Can you think of any others in the Bible who claimed to have received from a similar source?

Study number 2 in Galatians

Chapter 1:13-24.

Changed from persecutor to preacher.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 1:15B-16A.

1. What religious background does Paul say he came from?
2. What would have been some of the main teachings of his former religion? see Heb 10:11. Gal 4:9-10. 6:12. Ph 3:5-6.
3. What were some of the qualities Paul had demonstrated in his unsaved youth?
4. At what stage in Paul's life had God determined that Paul was going to be an instrument in the work of His kingdom? (see Ac 9:15.)
5. Are we to conclude that Paul had no choice or say in what he went on to do? What did God do that resulted in the change in Paul's (Saul's) life?
6. What special ministry did God chose Paul to do? Do you believe that God has a special job for each of His children? (See Jer 29:11. Ps 40:5.)
7. The revelation of Christ to, and in, Saul (Paul) turned his understanding of religion upside down! What teachers did he not turn to? What important lessons do you suppose this religious fanatic would have to learn during those three hidden years?
8. Later Paul went to Jerusalem to seek out Peter. What special appointment had Peter and Paul in common? (See Acts 15:1, 7. Gal 1:16.) What difficulty did this present to the early Church?
9. Who did Paul meet with in Jerusalem when he went there as a Believer? What could have been the purpose of that visit in the light of what we read in Gal 2:6?
10. What was the testimony that was reported among the Churches in Judea concerning Paul? And what reaction did it provoke among the Believers? What testimony have YOU got among those around you?

Study number 3 in Galatians

Chapter 2:1-10.

Sent by God and confirmed by apostles.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: REVIEW GALATIANS 1:3-5. & 15B-16A

1. Who planned the visit of Paul and his friends to Jerusalem 14 years after his first meeting with Peter?
2. What is the background of each of the men who went to Jerusalem for this visit? See Ph 3:4-6. Acts 11:20-25. Gal 2:3.
3. What fears were haunting Paul in his ministry? and what did these cause him to do? Do you ever doubt or question your beliefs? (See Ps 73. 2 Cor 13:5.)
4. The people Paul was writing to in Galatia were maintaining that sacramental practices were necessary in the Christian Church. What important fact happened in Jerusalem and Paul draws attention to it because it has to do with this matter?
5. The conflict between the Gospel and the sacramental value of such things as circumcision had been dealt with by the early Christian Church in Jerusalem. How had Peter stated the Christian Church's beliefs at that time? See Acts 15:(1,5.) 6-11.
6. How then had this issue become a problem within the Church?
7. Did Paul's earlier uncertainty leave him shaken and shakeable in his beliefs?
8. How did God use the experience of Paul in Jerusalem to confirm that Paul's message was genuine?
9. Why does Paul distinguish between the preaching of the Gospel to the Jews and to the Gentiles? Is there a different message for different people?
10. What special request did the Jerusalem Christians make of Paul concerning his ministry to the Gentiles?

Can't mix salvation by faith and by the law.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 2 : 16.

1. Peter had come on a visit to Antioch. Later he was joined by others from Jerusalem. What can you discover about Peter's way of life BEFORE the others from Jerusalem came to Antioch?
2. AFTER the arrival of the men sent by James what change was seen in Peter's behaviour?
3. What is the reason given in verse 12 for his behaviour? Could this same problem change the way we behave today? See what Proverbs 29:25 has to say about this matter.
4. Why do you think Peter gave preference to the circumcision group instead of the Gentile group he had been enjoying fellowship with? Could Christians today make similar mistakes because of the influences upon them of people and things associated with their previous beliefs?
5. What word does Paul use to describe the behaviour of his brother Peter? Which of these following words do you think could also have been used to describe what Peter was guilty of? (Put a line through the words that would NOT apply to Peter's behaviour.) Deceit; ~~good relations~~; favouritism; ~~love~~; ~~friendship~~; ~~Christlikeness~~; ~~encouragement~~; offensive; inconsistent; sinful.
6. Peter's behaviour caused serious "ripples" within the Galatian Church – what was one of the surprising results that showed how serious the issue was? What can we learn from that?
7. Do you think Paul was right to confront Peter about this "in front of them all?" (v.14.) This seems to be a different approach to that which Jesus gives in Matthew 18:15-17! Any comments?
8. Which verse sums up Peter's questionable behaviour? What was the problem? Could a similar problem arise in Christian circles today?
9. In verse 15 what does Paul say that seems to suggest that Jews are different to others? What does he go on to say that shows they need to be saved the very same way as anyone else? So why had he made a difference between Jews and others? (See - Gen 12:1-3. Rom 3:1-2. John 4:22. Romans 9:4-5.)
10. What very clear message about justification was declared by Paul in response to this debate? Which verse in Romans 3:21-31 makes the same point very clearly?

Study number 5 in Galatians

Chapter 2:17-3:5.

Human effort cannot do the Spirit's work.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 2 : 20.

1. What does the word JUSTIFIED mean? (just/if/ied...) And how did 2:16 tell us a person is Justified?
2. When a Christian – a justified sinner – is seen to still be sinful, what wrong conclusion can some suggest from that? What is the true explanation? See Rom 7:14-24.
3. According to verses 19-20 what outcome should we desire on our sinful nature because of our union with Jesus' death? Also see Romans 6:11. What great reason do we have in Gal 2:20 to want to deprive ourselves in this way?
4. What conclusion would we have to come to if we thought that our righteousness before God was something we had to earn or keep-up by our own merits?
5. The Galatian Christians had somehow become convinced their righteousness before God was now dependent upon their own efforts. What language does Paul use about them because of their new outlook on how to be right with God?
6. In verses 2 & 3 what was Paul wanting to get them to face up to and to answer for themselves about their beliefs?
7. If human effort is not the deciding factor to achieve progress in the Christian life, then what is?
8. What do we learn from verse 4 about the Christian life? See 2 Tim 3:12. Do YOU experience anything of this because of your Christian faith?
9. How are we told the Spirit of God comes upon us? See also Acts 5:32. 1 John 4:13. 1 Thess 4:7-8. 2 Cor 5:4-5.
10. Paul reminds them of their faith they had once demonstrated when they believed what they had heard. But later they had obviously "heard" a different message from others! How can we be sure to hear and believe the right message? See Acts 17:11. 2 Tim 3:15-16.

Study number 6 in Galatians

Chapter 3:6-14.

Righteousness can only be achieved by faith.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: REVIEW GALATIANS 2 : 16 & 20.

1. Abraham was from pagan background; (Jos 24:2.) how did he become righteous before God?
2. The promise to Abraham was that God would bless his family. Who qualifies to share in this blessing on Abraham's family?
3. Was God's intention initially just to bless the Jews? What reason can you find for saying His concern for the Gentiles was not some "plan B" – a new plan that God came up with later on? .
4. What expectation can a person have who is placing his hope in the law as a means of gaining acceptance with God?
5. The statement in verse 11 about "the righteous" is also found in Habakkuk 2 and Romans 1. Can you find which verses? Why do you think this statement is repeated in Scripture?
6. What is the law based on? What is the law not based on? Find your answer in verse 12.
7. What word does Paul use in referring to our salvation in verses 13 and 14? (see 1 Pet 1:18-19. Rev 1:5-6.) Why do you think he used this particular word?
8. What curse in the law finds its prophetic fulfilment in our redemption?
9. How would a redemption purchased by Jesus be good news even for the Gentiles? See 1 John 2:2.
10. The blessing given to Abraham included a wonderful promise. What is that promise and how can it be received?

Study number 7 in Galatians

Chapter 3:15-22.

God's promise in Christ is for those who believe.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 3 : 22.

1. What are the two ways that a human covenant cannot be interfered with? Compare this to what God has said about His Word. Deut 4:2. Rev 22:18-19. Prov. 30:6.
2. A covenant made among men is considered as a binding agreement not to be broken. (Note Ecclesiastes 5:5-6.) Why can you be even doubly sure about God's covenant!? See Heb 6:16-18. Is 14:24,27. 54:10.
3. What detail in our reading shows us that every single word in the Bible is important and to be taken seriously?
4. The "seed" is Christ. Trace and identify some of the well known "roots" of this "seed" in the following verses. Gal 3:16. / Gen 3:15. / Psalm 132:11. / Lu 1:33-35. / Gal 3:29. / (Lu 3:22-38. & Matt 1:1-17.)
5. "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfil?" (Nu 23:19.) So when God gave Moses the Law, was He going back on the promise He had made to Abraham?
6. Reading in verse 18 what is the reason or condition for God having made His wonderful promise with Abraham?
7. If the Law is not able to save us then for what purpose has it been given? See Romans 3:20. & 7:7-9. (& see Gal 3:24.)
8. What is the law certainly NOT capable of doing for us?
9. The Law involved a mediator – the priest being the mediator to fulfil the requirements of the law. But the Promise came directly through God Himself! How could God be available to sinful man without a third party to act as a mediator? See 1 Tim 2:5-6 for the solution.
10. The "law" declared in the Scripture, and the "Promise" made by God, are not in conflict with each other. What verse explains how they compliment each other? Compare Rom 4:13-16.

Study number 8 in Galatians

Chapter 3:23-4:7.

Set free from the law by the coming of God's Son.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 4 : 4-5.

1. The unbeliever is a "prisoner". What holds him in bondage? And for how long?
2. What good does the law do for the sinner?
3. Faith sets us free! What are we set free from? And what have we become if we are no longer slaves?
4. Verse 27 states two ways we have been identified with Jesus – what are they? And who do these apply to? And what lessons can we learn from these illustrations?
5. The law caused some to think of themselves as "better" than others! – Eg. Pharisees considered themselves better than "sinners". (Lu 15:2.) How does that compare with the attitude true "faith" produces?
6. How is the "child" heir similar to the slave? And how is he different to the slave?
7. Can you think of any lesson(s) you can learn about yourself as a Believer from the illustration of the "child heir"? (See 1 Pet 1:3-9.)
8. Have you noticed any indications that show God is a God of order and has carefully planned for us in love. (Jer 29:11.) Do you know of any other plans He has for us? (See 1 Jn 3:1-2.)
9. In what ways are we told that God's Son became like us? And what reason is given for His becoming one of us? (4:4-5.)
10. Contrast what we now have in Christ with what we were when we were condemned to destruction because we couldn't keep the law. (See Rom 6:20-23. 8:1-9. 1 Cor 2:9-12.)

Study number 9 in Galatians

Chapter 4:8-20.

God's people's joy is in knowing and obeying God.

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SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: REVIEW GALATIANS 3 : 22 & 4 : 4-5.

1. What is said about the relationships the Galatians had before they came to know God?
2. In verse 9 Paul expresses the relationship they had come into with God using 2 different phrases; what do you think is the importance of the change of emphasis in the phrases he used? (see Jn 6:44. 14:6.)
3. What specific things were they now considering as being necessary for Salvation alongside their faith in Jesus?
4. Why was Paul saying that their wonderful relationship with God was under serious attack?
5. What affect was their change of beliefs having on Paul's opinion of them, and upon himself as a messenger of the Gospel of God?
6. Which of the following words would describe Paul's attitude and response to their change of heart? [stroke out words that wouldn't apply] ~~Unconcerned?~~ Disturbed? ~~Responsible?~~ Saddened? Disappointed? Annoyed? Insistent - (urging them to repent)? Reminiscent – (reminding them of their earlier response to the gospel)? Confused by their response? Hurting for them? Longing for their repentance? Sympathetic and understanding?
7. What circumstances had led to Paul preaching the gospel to these Galatians in the first place?
8. Describe the Galatians' initial response to Paul's preaching of the Gospel.
9. How had their change of heart affected them? And how did it affect their relationship and attitude to Paul?
10. What objective have those people who try to turn others away for Christ and from faith in Him alone?

Study number 10 in Galatians

Chapter 4:21-5:1.

Children of the law OR children of promise?

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 5 : 1.

1. What phrase does Paul use to describe the bondage that the Galatian Christians were getting themselves into?
2. What incidents does Paul refer to in Abraham's life to demonstrate the contrast between the unmerited gift of God and the ruthlessness of the law?
3. What lesson did Paul bring out from the different circumstances of the births of Abraham's two sons?
4. What comparison did Paul make with Hagar, the slave mother?
5. What lesson did Paul teach from Isaac, the son of Sarah the free woman?
6. What do you understand about the references to two different Jerusalems?
7. What relevant lesson can we learn from the response of the slave son to the son of promise?
8. What phrase does Paul use when speaking about the special birth of the one being persecuted? Does it remind you of other scriptures?
9. What will the child of slavery "never" be able to do? And what is his condemnation?
10. The sons of promise are free; so what does Paul stress they need to do? And why?

Study number 11 in Galatians

Chapter 5:2-15.

True faith is expressed through love.

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SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 5 : 13.

1. If the Galatians considered religious ceremony, such as as being necessary for Salvation, what will their belief in Christ really mean to them?
2. If they believed it necessary to submit to circumcision to become acceptable to God then what else would obviously be required of them as well?
3. In one verse Paul gives two serious consequences of trying to be justified by the Law – what are they?
4. If sacraments such as circumcision are of no value then what are the things Paul says are of value?
5. The Galatians whom Paul is writing to had professed faith in Christ some time ago. What does Paul say must have happened to them to bring about such a turnabout in their faith?
6. What illustration does Paul use to warn of the great danger of making allowances for something that might seem just a small compromise?
7. What does Paul predict for the one who was causing the offence and confusion among the Galatian Believers?
8. What does Paul say is so very offensive to those who teach that salvation is obtained by the Law through observing the sacraments?
9. How does Paul express his wish that these people no longer could have the ability of reproducing their wrong teachings and contaminating the Christian Church?
10. The Believer's freedom from the Law as the means of salvation does not mean he or she has no obligation as to how to live. What should sum up the Believer's lifestyle?

Study number 12 in Galatians

Chapter 5:16-25.

The fruit of the Spirit distinct from sinful nature.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 5 : 22-23.

1. What is the ongoing conflict that the Believer has to continually deal with in this life? [Read more about it in Romans 7:14-24.]
2. What is the clear instruction in verse 16 - the decision you must make - in order to have victory over the sinful nature? [See also Romans 8:12-14.]
3. For a person to “live by the Spirit”, where do **you** think that person would have to get all his/her instruction and help? (see John 17:17. Psalm 119:9.)
4. What verse tells us that those being led by the Spirit will never look to or depend on their own achievements and efforts for their Salvation? Can you think of other Bible verses that teach the same thing? (One of our memory verses!)
5. How many acts of the sinful nature does Paul list? This is not a complete list. Paul says “and the like”. Can you suggest any others that could be on the list?
6. These sinful acts are evidences that such a person is not acceptable to God. What will **not** happen to such a person?
7. Without looking at your Bible see how many of the fruit of the Spirit you can write out from memory? (No cheating!! There are nine listed by Paul in the passage.)
8. “Against such things there is no law.” This is the very “fruit” the law was demanding of us, *but the law could not produce this fruit in our lives!* How does Romans 8:3-4 help you understand the victory of the life in the Spirit?
9. What is the sacrifice that those who belong to Christ Jesus have made? How does that compare to verses like Romans 8:13. and Matthew 18:7-9?
10. In thinking about what verse 25 says I thought of John 14:15. Do you see any link?

Study number 13 in Galatians

Chapter 5:26-6:10.

Having concern and responsibility for one another.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: REVIEW GALATIANS 5 : 1, 13, 22-23.

1. What is the danger we are warned about here? And how does it manifest itself?
2. What spiritual role is suggested here towards an erring believer? And what caution is given?
3. In what way can you fulfil the law of Christ? And what "law" do you think that could be referring to?
4. How is it very possible and easy to deceive yourself?
5. Does self-conceit rule out being able to take or have any pride in yourself or in your abilities?
6. Different people have different capabilities and responsibilities. What does each individual need to recognise?
7. Who is it that has something worth sharing with others?
8. We must very carefully guard our attitudes because who cannot be fooled by any pretence or insincerity on our part?
9. What basic principle will expose all our motives and actions to see whether they were of God or of self?
10. What advice are we given about "doing good"?

Study number 14 in Galatians

Chapter 6:11-18.

A new creation through the cross of Christ alone.

Ask God to bless His Word to you, then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: GALATIANS 6 : 9.

1. What indication does Paul give that suggests he may have experienced some difficulty in personally writing this letter to the Galatian Believers? (See Gal 4:15 for a clue.)
2. Paul exposes two reasons why some people insist on circumcision. What are they?
3. Paul shows that the message of the circumcision group was not reasonable. Why was their message not reasonable?
4. Paul's boast was not in his ability to keep the law in order to satisfy God; so what could he find to boast in?
5. What other teaching did Paul see in the cross of Christ that meant so much to him?
6. The Believer does not have circumcision as a mark of his new life in Christ, but he does have something to show that he is acceptable to God – what is it?
7. All who follow this “rule” of trusting in Christ - rather than circumcision and law-keeping - can expect to enjoy what blessings from God?
8. Although Paul did not boast of circumcision, he bore other marks that he was not ashamed of: What could they have been? And why was he not ashamed of them? (2 Cor 11:23-29.)
9. What did Paul suggest the Galatian Believers would do to him if they persisted in rejecting the Gospel that was all of grace?
10. How does his final sentence to them rebuke the wrong concept they were having towards being acceptable to God?