

GALATIANS MASTER CLASS

BY PROFESSOR DR. RAY PRITCHARD



SYLLABUS

PURPOSE

THE COURSE WILL CONSIST OF TEN LECTURES COVERING THE BOOK OF GALATIANS. THE LECTURES WILL HELP THE STUDENTS LEARN THE FOLLOWING TRUTHS:

- « The utter impossibility of salvation by any form of self-effort.
- « The foundational nature of justification by faith alone.
- « The absolute necessity of God's grace in the Christian life.
- « The crucial difference between legalism and responsible Christian liberty.
- « The ever-present danger of doctrinal defection.
- « The vital importance of true Christian unity.
- « The incredible freedom of walking in the Spirit every day.

COURSE RATIONALE

Word of Life Bible Institute seeks to expose the students to all the major sections of Scripture. This course takes an in-depth look at one of Paul's epistles. This particular epistle discusses the importance of adding no human effort to the process of salvation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

IN THE TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS THE STUDENT WILL:

- « Read the book of Galatians through twice (in two different versions).
- « Read "Galatians" chapter from *Surveying the Pauline Epistles*.
- « Watch all 10 class lectures.
- « Take all 10 quizzes (one at the end of each lecture).

INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

« Galatians was one of the _____ written books of the New Testament

« Galatians was written within _____ years of the _____ of _____

« Galatians is about “Getting the Gospel _____”

« When we are wrong about the gospel, two terrible things happen:

Sinners are not _____
God is not _____

« Martin Luther and the book of Galatians

« The book of Galatians is the *Magna Carta* of Christian liberty

II. AUTHOR: PAUL THE APOSTLE

III. AUDIENCE / GALATIANS THEORIES

« _____ Galatian Theory: _____ Galatians

« _____ Galatian Theory: Roman _____ of Galatia

IV. DATE: AD 49

The Great _____ Council (Acts 15)

« The Debate: Should Gentile converts be _____ in order to be accepted into the _____?

« The Jerusalem Council was held around _____

« The book of Galatians must have been written _____ the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), because...

« ...Paul's argument in Galatians assumes that the issue which was settled at the Jerusalem council was still _____

Therefore, the book of Galatians was written _____ years _____ the Jerusalem council (Acts 15)

V. PURPOSE

To refute the _____

« _____ converts

« Claimed to be _____

« Followed after Paul and attacked his authority

« Taught that _____ was required to be right with God and to be a _____

To explain _____ by faith

VI. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

« _____ (1-2): A Defense of Paul's _____ .

« _____ (3-4): A Defense of _____ by Faith.

« _____ (5-6): A Defense of _____ .

EXPOSITION OF GALATIANS

I. NO OTHER GOSPEL (1:1-10)

Theme: Since there is only one saving gospel from God, anyone who preaches any other Gospel will be eternally condemned.

SALUTATION (1:1-5)

« Paul's Authority. (1:1-2)

■ Not from _____ but from _____ .

« Paul's Message. (1:3-4)

The sacrifice of Christ was:

« Paul's Motive (1:5)

DENUNCIATION (1:6-10)

« The Crisis in Galatia (1:6-7)

Not _____ gospel but a _____ of the gospel!

« The Issue at Stake (1:8-9)

Anathema means:

To be under a _____ from God

To be _____ by God

To be _____ to hell

« The Motive for Writing (1:10)

GALATIANS IN PERSPECTIVE

« This letter was written in an _____.

« Three words that describe the tone of this letter: _____, _____, _____.

« It exposes the Judaizers who mixed _____ and _____.

« They taught salvation by faith plus _____ instead of faith _____.

« This letter teaches us how to refute _____.

« It also teaches us the importance of truth and the nature of true _____.

II. HOW A TERRORIST BECAME AN EVANGELIST (1:11-24)

Theme: Since there is only one saving gospel from God, anyone who preaches any other gospel will be eternally condemned.

THESIS: PAUL'S GOSPEL COMES DIRECTLY FROM CHRIST (1:11-12)

« Not from Man (1:11-12a)

« Revealed by Jesus Christ (1:1-12b)

EVIDENCE: DEMONSTRATED IN HIS SPIRITUAL JOURNEY (1:13-16A)

« Not from Man (1:11-12a)

“Why does Paul tell us this? Because he wants us to understand that before he became a Christian he was not searching for anything better. Judaism satisfied and consumed him. His life’s goal was to climb as high on the Pharisaic ladder as possible. In a word, Paul was a fanatic!” Timothy Hoke

« How He Came to Christ. (1:15-16a)

Paul’s testimony is intended to teach us that salvation is all about the _____ of God!

« After He Came to Christ. (1:16b-24)

The Trip to _____ . (1:16b-17)

The Visit to Jerusalem. (1:18-20)

The Trip to Syria and Cilicia. (1:21)

Reaction in the Churches of Judea. (1:22-24)

REASONS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

« Christianity is supremely a religion of _____ .

« No sinner is a truly _____ case.

« Enemies of the gospel sometimes become the best _____ .

« Salvation begins with _____ , not with _____ .

« If God can save Paul, he can save _____ .

III. DEFENDING THE GOSPEL (2:1-10)

Theme: The gospel both divides and unites. It divides us from those who would add anything to the finished work of Jesus Christ as a requirement for acceptance with God. It unites us with Christians of many different backgrounds.

PRIVATE CONSULTATION (2:1-3)

A COVERT INFILTRATION (2:4-5)

« What do we know about these “false brothers”?

They were not what they _____ to be.

They used deception to _____ the church.

They wanted to force _____ believers to be circumcised.

They _____ true Christian freedom.

Their evil tactics _____ their wrong beliefs.

- « How did Paul respond to these “false brothers”?
He did not compromise with them on any point.
He upheld the truth of the gospel at all costs.

A PERSONAL CONFIRMATION (2:6-10)

- « We stand on the same _____ (2:6).
No reason to stand in awe
God does not play favorites
- « We preach the same _____ (2:7-8).
Paul the apostle to the Gentiles
Peter the apostle to the Jews
- « We share the same _____ (2:9).
Given by the leadership
Based on a recognition of God’s grace
For a new and different ministry
- « We have the same _____ (2:10).

THREE IMPORTANT AFFIRMATIONS IN THIS PASSAGE

1 ONE GOSPEL.

2 TWO MAIN APOSTLES:
PETER AND PAUL.

3 THREE PILLARS OF THE JERUSALEM CHURCH:
JAMES, PETER, JOHN.

LESSONS ON UNITY IN THE GOSPEL

- « The gospel is a hill to _____ on.
- « Unity matters, and because it matters, we must _____ for the truth of the gospel.
- « Where the gospel is preached, we have the basis for true Christian unity even though we may disagree on lesser issues.

IV. BAD MANNERS AT THE DINNER TABLE (2:11-21)

Theme: Personal confrontation may be required when the truth of the gospel is at stake. We must not compromise the truth of justification by faith alone.

THE PROBLEM (2:11-13)

- « Peter’s Conduct in Antioch

Peter’s Freedom: _____

Peter’s Fear: _____

Peter's Fall: _____

- « Paul's Response
- Recognized the _____
- Saw the _____
- Confronted Peter _____

THE PROTEST (2:14)

- « The Standard Being Violated: _____
- « The Action Taken: _____
- « The Charge Made: _____

THE PRINCIPLE (2:15-21)

- « Justification Defined (2:15-16)
- « Justification Defended (2:17-19)
- « Justification Applied (2:20-21)
- We live by _____ .
- We depend on _____ .

A Christian is a person in whom _____ now lives!

FIVE ABIDING TRUTHS

- « When great issues are at stake, we must put _____ above personal _____ .
- « Small _____ may lead to great _____ .
- « Sometimes sin must be _____ rebuked.
- « When we come to Christ by _____ we receive _____ we need to be fully accepted by God.
- « A Christian is a person in whom _____ now lives.

Justification is that act of God whereby he acquits guilty sinners (that is, he declares them innocent), _____ . This gift of justification is received _____ apart from good works of any kind. Justified sinners are thus pardoned, acquitted, set free, accepted by God, and treated as righteous.

V. BEWITCHED BELIEVERS(2:11-21)

Theme: Abraham's example proves that we must be saved by faith in Christ and not by keeping the law.

Note: Paul offers six arguments to prove his doctrine of justification by faith:

- « Personal: Their Spiritual Experience. 3:1-5
- « Scriptural: Life of Abraham. 3:6-14

- « Historical: Nature of the Law. 3:15-25
 - « Doctrinal: Believer's Present Position. 3:26 – 4:11
 - « Emotional: Paul's Affection for Them. 4:12-20
 - « Allegorical: Analogy of Sarah and Hagar. 4:21-31

ARGUMENT FROM EXPERIENCE (3:1-5)

- « An appeal to their better judgment. (3:1)

ARGUMENT FROM SCRIPTURE (3:6-14)

- « Abraham was saved by faith. (3:6)

Justified in Genesis _____ .

Circumcised in Genesis _____ .

- « The Gentiles are saved the same way. (3:7-9)

God's plan of salvation is always the _____ .

No room for _____ in the church.

This is the _____ for world missions.

- « The Law condemns but it cannot save. (3:10-12)

Law-keeping demands _____ .

Failure places you under a _____ .

The righteous live by _____ .

- « Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law. (3:13)

- « Through His death the blessing given to Abraham is received by faith. (3:14)

SOME IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS

« Even strong believers may be _____ by false teachers.

« In every age salvation is always the same: by _____ through _____ .

« Sin has left every person under a _____ from God and thus in a totally _____ condition apart from divine grace.

« Justification by faith and justification by keeping the law are mutually exclusive _____ .

« In His death the Lord Jesus Christ took our place _____ , paid the price for our sin _____ , removed the enmity that stood between us and God _____ , satisfied God's justice _____ , and turned away God's wrath _____ .

All that God has done to save us comes to fruition in the bloody cross of Jesus Christ. And because the cross is so important, salvation therefore must be by believing and not by achieving. It's not what we do that saves us; it's what Jesus has already done 2,000 years ago. Let us look to Christ and to him alone for our salvation.

VI. FREE IN CHRIST! (3:15-29)

Theme: The law served a good purpose in its day, but it has been replaced by faith in Christ. Through the gospel we receive blessings that can never be taken away.

THE PERMANENCE OF THE PROMISE (3:15-18)

- « The Promise Given to Christ. (3:15-16)
- « The Law Cannot Set Aside the Promise. (3:17-18)

430 years = From the _____ to the _____ .

Note: A law requires _____ .

A promise requires _____ .

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW (3:19-25)

- « It restrains sin temporarily. (3:19-20)
 - The law was “added”.
 - The law was “until” Christ.
- « It cannot bring life. (3:21)
 - Example: “Wet Paint. Do Not Touch.”
- « It demonstrates human sin. (3:22-23)
- « It shows us our need for Christ. (3:24)
- « It is no longer needed now that Christ has come. (3:25)

THE PRIVILEGE OF SONSHIP (3:26-29)

« A New _____ . (3:26)

« A New _____ . (3:27)

Baptized by the Holy Spirit.
Clothed with Christ.

« A New _____ . (3:28)

Outward distinctions are no _____ to saving faith.

Unity in Christ rises above _____ distinctions.

Note: We each maintain our individual **identity** while entering into a true spiritual **unity** in the church.

« A New _____ . (3:29)

VII. A TALE OF TWO WOMEN (4:1-31)

Theme: Once we truly understand all that is ours by faith in Christ, we will not turn back to the slavery of trying to please God by keeping the law.

A RADICAL CHANGE (4:1-11)

- « The Way We Used to Be. (4:1-3)
- « The Difference Christ Makes. (4:4-7)
 - Why He Came. (4:4-5)
 - When - In the fullness of time.
 - What - God sent Christ.
 - Why - To redeem us from the law.
 - What We Gain. (4:6-7)
 - Slaves have a _____, sons have a _____.
- « The Danger of Turning Back. (4:8-11)

A WARNING ABOUT FALSE FRIENDS. (4:17-18)

- « A Declaration of Personal Concern. (4:19-20)
 - “Are those who follow me becoming more like Jesus?”

A SCRIPTURAL ANALOGY (4:21-31)

- « Two Sons: Ishmael and Isaac
- « Two Women: Hagar (slave) and Sarah (free)
- « Two Conditions: Fertile and Barren
- « Two Births: Fleshly Desire and God’s Promise
- « Two Covenants: Law and Grace (Moses and Abraham)
- « Two Results: Slavery and Freedom
- « Two Mountains: Sinai and Zion (implied)
- « Two Cities: Earthly Jerusalem and Heavenly Jerusalem

ABRAHAM

SARAH

ISAAC

PROMISE

FREEDOM

LIFE

HAGAR

ISHMAEL

LAW

SLAVERY

DEATH

ABRAHAM IS THE FATHER OF TWO _____ OF HUMANITY.



The question is not, “Who’s your _____?” but “Who’s your _____?”

VIII. STAND FIRM IN CHRIST (5:1-12)

Theme: We must stand firm in our Christian liberty, refusing even the slightest temptation to return to the law as a means of pleasing God.

Note: Chapter 5 begins the _____ section of Galatians.

CHOICE # 1: SLAVERY VS. FREEDOM (5:1)

« Since Christ has set us free, the only way to go back to slavery is to do it _____ .

CHOICE # 2: LAW OR GRACE (5:2-6)

If you give in to the Judaizers . . .

« Christ is of no _____ to you. (5:2)

« You are obligated to obey the _____ . (5:3)

« You have _____ the gospel of grace. (5:4)

« You give up your Christian _____ . (5:5-6)

CHOICE # 3: CIRCUMCISION VS. THE CROSS (5:7-12)

Living by the law instead of the gospel . . .

« Stops our spiritual _____ . (5:7)

« Pulls us away from _____ (5:8)

« Leads to other _____ . (5:9)

« Produces spiritual _____ . (5:10)

« Removes the _____ of the cross. (5:11-12)

By taking away our persecution.

By removing the offense of the cross.

Note: Verse 12 is the strongest statement in the epistle. “Paul’s purpose is to press the error of the Judaizers to its illogical and unacceptable conclusion. The Judaizers had emphasized circumcision more than the Old Testament Law had. The mentality of the Judaizers was that the cutting off of a little flesh was commendable and pleasing in God’s sight. . . . If this were really true, Paul queries, then why not press the matter even further? If cutting off a little flesh is good, cutting off much flesh is even better. Why not be so pious as to castrate oneself? . . . From the Old Testament Scriptures and contemporary culture, the Galatians would recognize castration as too extreme, and yet it was the logical extension of their doctrine. As this illustration graphically reveals, the horrifying thought of castration was intended to show the Galatians that the Judaizers had gone too far.”

THREE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE GOSPEL

1 WHEN IT COMES TO THE _____ , THERE CAN BE NO _____ .

2 EVEN A SMALL _____ IN THIS AREA MAY PRODUCE _____ RESULTS.

3 GENUINE _____ THAT WORKS BY LOVE MEANS FAR MORE THAN EXTERNAL _____ TO A SET OF RULES.

IX. FULL SPEED AHEAD ONE STEP AT A TIME (5:13-26)

Theme: We can either follow the flesh, hurting ourselves and those around us, or we can live by the Spirit and enjoy the rich fruit of a transformed life.

“Freedom requires _____ or it disintegrates into _____.”

DANGER OF FREEDOM (5:13-15)

- « Believers are called to _____ . (5:13)
- « Love fulfills the _____ . (5:14)
- « Liberty without love leads to mutual _____ . (5:15)

ONGOING STRUGGLE (5:16-18)

- « Struggle is a _____ part of the Christian life. (5:16-17)
- « The conflict between our flesh and the Spirit is _____ and _____. (5:16-17)
- « God’s desire is that we _____ in the Spirit. (5:18)

Walking is taking one step in front of another in the same direction over a long period of time.

WORKS OF THE FLESH (5:19-21)

- « Sexual Sins (4)
- « Religious Sins (2)
- « Social Sins (9)
- « Intemperate Sins (2)

Note _____

These sins _____ come from the flesh. (5:19a)

This list is not _____. (5:21a)

These sins mark an _____ life. (5:21b)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (5:22-26)

- « The Nine-Fold Fruit. (5:22-23)
 - Group # 1: Relating to God – Upward.
 - Group # 2: Relating to Others – Outward.
 - Group # 3: Relating to Ourselves – Inward.

- « The Three-Fold Challenge. (5:24-26)

Keep the flesh _____. (5:24)

Keep in _____ with the Spirit. (5:25)

Keep your heart right toward _____. (5:26)

TRUE FREEDOM AND FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- « Christian freedom is not the right to do what we _____ , but the power to do what we _____ .
- « Freedom not guided by love soon descends into destructive _____ .
- « Fruit comes from life and life comes from the _____ .
- « The term “fruit” suggests a _____ of qualities that are to be found in the life of _____ Christian.

X. FULFILLING THE LAW OF CHRIST (6:1-18)

Theme: When our lives are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will restore the fallen, share generously with others, and our only boast will be in the cross of Christ.

HELPING THE WEAK (6:1-5)

« Those who fall into sin. (6:1)

They are _____ by sin.

They require the help of “_____” people.

They must be restored _____ .

They must be approached _____ .

« Those who are burdened. (6:2-5)

SHARING WITH OTHERS (6:6-10)

BOASTING IN THE CROSS (6:11-18)

In this final section Paul repeats his attack on the Judaizers and reaffirms his own godly motives for preaching the gospel of grace.

« His Signature (6:11)

« His Enemies (6:12-13)

They are _____ .

They are _____ .

They are _____ .

They are _____ .

« His Boast (6:14-15)

« His Blessing (6:16)