

A VERSE BY VERSE
DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

**THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE
GALATIANS**

*FEATURING THE
LAST DAYS NEW TESTAMENT*

GALATIANS

General Information: It appears that the Galatians were willing to give up the Good News (the Gospel) and go back to the Law for their righteousness. The Apostle Paul says, “No Way! If you do then Christ cannot save you!” (See Gal. 5:2-4).

Paul’s letter to the Galatians is the first letter ever written to the early church that was facing serious problems of eternal consequences. The date was around 48 A.D.

**READ AND DISCUSS EACH VERSE(S),
ALONG WITH THE “ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION” AND “QUESTIONS.”**
(Additional translations may also be consulted).

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

My Dear Friends in Galatia:

This is from Paul, a messenger*—not a messenger sent by men, nor by the authority of man, but by Jesus Christ and by God our Father who raised Him from among the dead.

***Gal. 1:1 – “A messenger,” literally “an apostle.” The Greek word is *Apostolos* and comes from *apo* meaning “from” and *stello* meaning “to send.” This refers to the act of sending someone as a delegate to represent the sender.**

It is translated in the King James Version as *apostle, messenger or he that is sent.*

²Greetings to all of you in the churches* in the province of Galatia in Turkey. All the Lord's followers with me send their greetings as well.

*Gal. 1:2 – “Greetings to all of you in the churches.” Paul uses the plural “churches.” This is a circular letter that is not going to a city but rather to a Roman province.

³May God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord grant you all the blessings of the Christian life, including peace of mind and heart.

⁴Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins, in order to rescue us from this present evil age. This was in obedience to what our God and Father wanted Him to do.

⁵May our Father be praised and revered throughout all of endless eternity! Indeed, may it ever be so!

No Other Great News!

⁶But I'm utterly shocked and amazed at you people!* How is it that you've so quickly deserted our God,* who called you to Himself by means of the undeserved love and mercy He so graciously offers you through Christ? Instead, you are now accepting a different "great news"!

***Gal. 1:6 – “I’m utterly shocked and amazed at you people!” The Greek word is *thaumazo* and carries the idea of that which would “evoke surprise.” It has been translated in various translations as “I marvel, I am amazed, I am astonished, I am surprised at you!” “Quickly deserted our God.” In Greek this is a present tense which indicates that the removing is in progress but has not yet been complete. They were deserting God Himself for a different gospel.**

⁷But there’s no great news at all connected with what you’re now accepting. Those who are confusing you want only to twist and destroy the Great News* about the Messiah.

***Gal. 1:7 – “Twist and destroy the Great News.” The Greek word means *to change, pervert, twist, and distort*. The Galatians were doing this by trying to earn God’s favor by observing special days, months, seasons and years (Gal. 4:9-11). They were making circumcision mandatory**

along with faith in Jesus as a means of earning salvation (Gal. 5:2-3; Acts 15:1-2). They thought justification came from observing the law instead of through Christ and Him crucified (Gal. 5:4).

⁸But even if I myself or an angel from Heaven were to preach a different great news to you than the Great News I already brought you, may he be damned!*

⁹So you will know that I mean what I've just said, I say it again: If anyone preaches any great news to you other than the Great News I already brought you, may he be damned!*

**Gal. 1:8, 9 – “May he be damned!” that is, condemned to hell or forever cursed.*

¹⁰In making this harsh statement, am I merely trying to convince you of my opinion, or am I telling you what God declares? Or, do you think I'm concerned about what people wish to hear? If I were still concerned about pleasing people, I wouldn't be a servant of Christ!

Paul's Authority Is from God

¹¹But I want you dear friends to know, that no mere man had anything to do with authoring the Great News I've been preaching.

¹²Because I neither received it from man, nor did any man teach it to me. I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.*

***Gal. 1:12 – “Revelation from Jesus Christ.” This could mean two things, (1) the revelation of the gospel was FROM Jesus Christ and the revelation WAS JESUS CHRIST.**

13 You’ve heard how I behaved in the past as a zealot of the Jewish religion, how I angrily and violently persecuted the Church* of God and did my best to destroy it.

***Gal. 1:13 – “I angrily and violently persecuted the Church.” The imperfect tense implies that Saul persecuted the church in excess and without mercy and it continued for some time.**

14 Because I was so very devoted in upholding the traditions of our ancestors, I

was advancing in the Jewish religion far ahead of many my own age in Israel.

¹⁵But even before I was born, God had set me apart to be His messenger. And though undeserving of His kindness and mercy, ¹⁶ it pleased Him to call me to Himself and introduce me to His Son, and then send me to tell people in all nations that the Great News about Jesus is for them too. But I didn't then immediately go and talk this over with others who are as human as I am.

¹⁷No, I didn't even go to Jerusalem to talk with those who were messengers of Christ before I was. Instead, I went to Arabia,* and then returned to Damascus.

Gal. 1:17 – “I went to Arabia” possibly *to be alone with the Lord, and confer with Him or restudy the Old Testament scriptures without tradition.

18It wasn't until three years after my conversion to Christ that I went up to Jerusalem to meet Peter.* I stayed with him at that time for 15 days.

***Gal. 1:18 – “To meet Peter” and get acquainted. There could be several reasons Paul mentions this. (1) In a brief meeting he could not have been fully instructed in the truths of the gospel. (2) He wants people to understand his harmony with Peter.**

19Even then I didn't see any of the other messengers,* except James, the Lord's brother.

*Gal. 1:19 – “Messengers,” literally *apostles*.

20 I assure you before God that what I’m writing you here is the truth!

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 Before this time, none of the people in the Christian churches in Judea had met me personally.

23 The only thing they had heard was the continued report that, “The one who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the Great News, the very faith he once tried to destroy!”

24 And they praised God for what had happened to me.

Paul Accepted by the Other Apostles

2 Fourteen years later, I went up to Jerusalem again. This time I went with Barnabas, also taking Titus with us.*

***Gal. 2:1 – This is the second visit by Paul to Jerusalem. His first visit was 14 years earlier. His companions on this visit were Barnabas, a Jewish Christian brother that helped Paul establish Galatians churches on Paul’s first missionary journey (Acts 14-15), and Titus, a Gentile convert to Christ who has not submitted himself to the Jewish rites of circumcision.**

2I went there because God had revealed that I should go. In a private meeting* with the church leaders I told them what I preach as I give the message of the Great News to the Gentiles, as I didn’t want all the work I had

done, or would do in the future, to come to nothing.

***Gal. 2:2 – “In a private meeting” Paul laid out in words the gospel he had been preaching. If the Jerusalem leaders are preaching a different gospel, then Paul’s work could be stopped and come to nothing. Three such leaders are mentioned (Gal. 2:9), Peter, James and John.**

³Titus was there with me, and although he’s a Greek, they didn’t even demand that he be circumcised.*

***Gal. 2:3 – “They didn’t even demand that he be circumcised.” Titus was brought on this trip as a test case. Will a converted Gentile to faith in Jesus Christ be compelled to be circumcised? Will the truth of the gospel be compromised? Titus was received by the apostles and the truth that man is justified through faith in Jesus Christ apart from the works of the law stood firm.**

⁴The reason I went, was to confer with the church leaders, because false believers had infiltrated our churches in order to spy out the freedom from Jewish rules and regulations that we have in Christ Jesus, and to enslave us to those rules again.*

***Gal. 2:4 – “To enslave us to those rules again.” Paul is later going to state, “*If you are counting on circumcision and keeping the Jewish laws to make you right with God, then Christ cannot save you*” (Gal. 5:2, The Living Bible).**

⁵But we didn’t surrender to them in any way, not even for one minute, so that the truth of the Great News would be preserved for you*.

***Gal. 2:5 – “So that the truth of the Great News would be preserved for you.” It is clear from this epistle that a person may begin with true faith in Jesus and Him crucified and then return to self-effort or works of the law for acceptance before God. Paul would not submit for a moment to this mixture.**

⁶But the point is, none of those leaders who seemed to be so highly respected—whatever they were, it doesn’t make any difference to me, because God doesn’t have any personal favorites—none of them had anything to add to what I had received from the Lord.

⁷Instead, they saw that God had given me the task of bringing the Great News to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been given the task of preaching it to the Jews.

8 They saw that God was working effectively through Peter as a messenger to the Jews, and through me as a messenger to the Gentiles.

9 And when James, Peter, and John, who seemed to be the pillars of the church, clearly recognized how much God's favor was upon me, they shook hands with Barnabas and me* as a token of their full agreement that we should go to the Gentiles, and they, to the Jews.

***Gal. 2:9 – “They shook hands with Barnabas and me,” literally, “they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship.” This implies a united missionary effort and partnership to work together in spreading the gospel to Jews and Gentiles.**

¹⁰All they asked was that we would continue to remember to help the poor, which was something I have always been eager to do.

Paul Corrects Peter at Antioch

¹¹But when Peter came to Antioch, I publicly told him face-to-face that he was wrong, because he needed to be reprimanded for what he was doing.

¹²Here's what happened: When Peter first came to Antioch, he ate openly with the Gentile believers. But when some friends of James* showed up, he stopped having anything to do with the Gentiles and separated himself from them, because of his

fear of these men who believed that all Gentile believers must be circumcised.

***Gal. 2:12 – “Some friends of James,” literally “certain came from James.” These men from Jerusalem (James’ church), belonged to the circumcision party, but it is doubtful that they had James’ endorsement.**

13And the rest of the Jewish Christians joined him in his cowardly hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their double-dealing.*

***Gal. 2:13 – “Barnabas was carried away by their double-dealing,” that is, even Barnabas was influenced by these men.**

14But when I saw that they were not being open and honest in their loyalty to the truth

God had given us in the Great News, I said to Peter in front of everyone there, “Peter, you are a Jew, but you live like the Gentiles rather than like the Jews. Why, then, are you now insisting that the Gentile believers live like Jews?”

¹⁵From birth we had the Jewish teachings instilled into us, and were not allowed to live in the sinful ways of the Gentiles.

¹⁶But we now know that no one can become right with God by obeying Jewish laws and ceremonies. Only faith in Jesus Christ can do that. So that’s what we’ve done: we’ve put our faith in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God through Him, and not by the Law, because there’s no way

that anyone can become right with God by obeying Jewish laws.

17 Now if I claim right standing with God through faith in Christ, but then find myself sinning *against the laws of Moses*, does that mean that Christ promotes the interests of sin? Absolutely not!

18 I would find myself a sinner *indeed* if I rebuild what I have destroyed (justification by the Law).

***Gal. 2:17,18 – “¹⁷But what if we trust Christ to save us and then find that we are wrong and that we cannot be saved without being circumcised and obeying all the other Jewish laws? Wouldn’t we need to say that faith in Christ had ruined us? God forbid that anyone should dare to think such things about our Lord. ¹⁸Rather, we are sinners if we start rebuilding the old systems I have been destroying of trying to be saved by keeping Jewish laws” (The Living Bible). Most**

English translations of these verses reveal these basic facts: If a believer returns to the Law as a means of justification, the Law cannot save, it can only demonstrate that the person is a sinner (a transgressor) *doomed to die*.

19But when I considered all the endless requirements of the Law, I died to all hope that I could ever become alive to God by obeying the Law.

20So now, in effect, I too have been put to death on the cross with Christ. But still, I'm alive! But it's no longer I who am alive *and in control*. The fact that I'm now spiritually alive is due to the fact that Christ now lives in this body of mine. So now I live by the faith of (or *in*) the Son of God, who loved me and gave His very life for me.

21 I will do nothing to weaken or cancel God's grace. Because if righteousness *with God* can be obtained by obeying Jewish laws and ceremonies, then Christ's death was useless and in vain, He died for nothing.

We Are Justified by Faith!

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you and convinced you to no longer obey the truth? Don't you remember how visibly and vividly I pictured Jesus being nailed to the cross for you?

2 Tell me just one thing: Did you receive God's Holy Spirit* by obeying Jewish laws or by believing the truth you heard?

***Gal. 3:2 – “Receive God's Holy Spirit.” He no doubt refers here to all the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that**

had been made to them: (1) In renewing them when they were converted, (2) indwelling them, (Jn. 14:17, 23), (3) affirming His presence with them (Rom. 8:16), (4) giving them power by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-21; 1Cor. 12:1-11).

³How can you now be so stupid? After God has done so much for you through His Spirit, do you think you are now being made perfect by obeying Jewish laws?

⁴Did you suffer* so many things for nothing—if indeed it turns out now that it was for nothing?

*Gal. 3:4 – “Did you suffer so many things for nothing.” The Galatians suffered many things for the sake of the gospel (Acts 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5, 19, 22). Now they are ready to throw it all overboard by accepting a different gospel.

⁵When God blesses you with His Holy Spirit and performs miracles among you, does He do all this for you because you perform certain Jewish ceremonies, or is it because you believe what He has promised you?

⁶Consider what the Scripture says about Abraham in regard to this,

‘Abraham believed what God promised, and because he believed what God said He would do for him, he was given right standing with God.’ (*Genesis 15:6*)

⁷So continue to realize this: Only those who exercise genuine faith are true children of Abraham.

⁸In fact, the Scriptures even foretold that God would give right standing to people everywhere, by means of their faith in Him. God gave this Great News to Abraham in advance by telling him,

People in every nation on earth will be blessed through you. (*Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18*)

⁹So then, all who believe, as Abraham believed, are blessed together with Abraham the man of faith.

¹⁰But all who rely on their obedience to Jewish laws and ceremonies to save them are under a curse. Because the Scripture says,

Everyone who fails to continually obey every single command that is written in God's Book of the Law is under God's curse. (*Deuteronomy 27:26*)

¹¹And the fact that no one is made right with God by obeying Jewish laws is also clear in the Scripture that says,

‘The people who God accepts will live (have life) by trusting in Him.’
(*Habakkuk 2:4*)

¹²But the Law has nothing to do with believing. As another Scripture says, ‘A man is promised life, who obeys God's commands, without one slip.’ (*Leviticus 18:5*)

13But Christ saved us from the curse that came upon us for not perfectly obeying the Law. He did it by taking upon Himself the curse that was upon us. Because the Scriptures also state,

‘Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.’ (*Deuteronomy 21:23*)

14So because of what Christ Jesus suffered for us on the cross, the blessing God promised Abraham is now available to everyone else as well. All of us may now receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

The Law and the Promise

15My brothers and sisters, let me illustrate my point. Even when men sign an

agreement, none of those who sign can later add to or take from the obligations of that agreement.

16 Now God made an agreement with Abraham and with his Descendant. God didn't say, "... and to your descendants," referring to many people, but He uses the singular, "... and to your Descendant," referring to one person—to Christ.

17 What I'm saying is this: God made an agreement with Abraham about Christ; and the Law, which God gave through Moses 430 years later, doesn't set aside and cancel God's promise.

18 Because if the inheritance God promised Abraham was to be obtained by obeying the

Laws of Moses, then God's promise means nothing. But God gave the inheritance as a free gift to Abraham by promise!*

***Gal. 3:17, 18 – The Living Bible paraphrases verses 17-18 in the following way: “¹⁷Here’s what I am trying to say: God’s promise to save through faith—and God wrote this promise down and signed it—could not be canceled or changed four hundred and thirty years later when God gave the Ten Commandments. ¹⁸If obeying those laws could save us, then it is obvious that this would be a different way of gaining God’s favor than Abraham’s way, for he simply accepted God’s promise.”**

¹⁹Well, why then did God give the Law? It was given later to show mankind what was sinful, *and that there is an awful price to pay for sinning.* But the Law was in force only temporarily, only until Abraham's

Descendant, to whom the promise referred, had come. And God gave the Law to angels to give to Moses, the mediator.*

**Gal. 3:19 – “Mediator” ... representing the people before God.*

²⁰But a mediator is not needed when a person is alone and speaking for himself, and God was alone and spoke for Himself when He made the promise to Abraham.

The Purpose of the Law of Moses

²¹Is the Law of Moses, then, in conflict with the promises of God? Not at all! Because if a law had been given that was able to give life, then certainly righteousness with God

would have been attainable by obeying that law.

²²But the Scriptures clearly declare that all people in the whole world are prisoners of sin. The Law serves as a means of making this very clear, so that we will put our trust in God's promise that right standing with Him will be given those who are believing in Jesus Christ.

²³But before it was revealed that we could be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, we were guarded by the Law. We were kept in protective custody by it until it would later be revealed that we could be saved by faith in Him.

24 So the Law acted as a guardian-teacher to bring us to Christ, so that we would be made right with God through faith in Him.

25 But now that faith in Christ has come, we are no longer under the guardianship of the Laws of Moses.*

***Gal. 3:25 – “We are no longer under the guardianship of the Laws of Moses.” but under Christ Himself.**

26 Because all of you are now children of God by means of your faith in Christ Jesus.

27 Because all of you who were truly immersed into Christ have put on Christ (*taken upon you His feelings and concerns, His opinions and nature*).

28 And those of us who belong to Christ Jesus are all on the same level, saved in the same way, whether we're Jew or Greek, slave or free, man or woman. You are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are, in a special sense, true descendants of Abraham. And you are heirs of God, *because you now believe* and share in the promise *God made to Abraham*.

4 Now let me point out that as long as the son who has inherited his father's property is a child, he is treated no differently than a slave, even though he owns everything.

2 He is constantly under the supervision of guardians and trustees until the time his

father had previously set for him to take over the affairs of the estate.

³The same was true with us, when as infants in spiritual understanding, we were held in slavery by laws and rituals we thought could save us.

⁴But when the time that God had set for our coming of age finally arrived, He sent His Son to us. He was born of a woman, and was Himself subject to the laws of God.

⁵He came to save those who had broken God's laws, so that we might be adopted by God as His children.

⁶And because you are now His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, causing you to tenderly and affectionately cry out, “Abba, My Father!”

***Gal. 4:6 – “Abba” is an Aramaic term used for *intimacy* and *affectionate fondness*. It was used by Jesus in Mark 14:36 and carries the idea of God being our “Daddy.”**

⁷So you are no longer treated as a slave, because you are now a child of God! And if a child of God, then you are also an heir of God, all because of what Christ has done for you.

Paul’s Concern for the Galatians

⁸As for you Gentiles who didn’t know God, you were also slaves—slaves to those idols

and gods who by their very nature could never be gods.

⁹But now that you have come to know God—or rather, to realize that God knew and loved you—how can you even think of turning to the weak and bankrupt elementary rules of religion? Do you really want to be enslaved all over again?

¹⁰You are now trying to gain God's friendship by paying special attention to religious days, months, seasons, and years.

¹¹I'm afraid for you! Can it be that all my hard work for you has been wasted effort?

¹²My dear brothers and sisters! I beg you to look at the truth as I now see it, because I also once believed as you are coming to

believe. It's not me you have wronged. You have never done that.

13 You will remember that the first time I brought the Great News to you, I spent quite some time with you because of the infirmity of my flesh.*

***Gal. 4:13 – “The infirmity of my flesh.” It was Paul’s first missionary trip to Galatia (Acts 14:1-10). Paul came to these people through the infirmity of his flesh. We have a hint of Paul’s appearance and physical condition from Acts 14:11-23.**

14 But even though my infirmity was a great burden to you, you didn’t despise or reject me with contempt. You received me as if I were one of God’s angels; yes, as if I were Jesus Christ Himself.

15 So what's happened to the great blessings you then rejoiced in? I'm a witness to the fact that if it had been possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

16 Have I now become your enemy because I'm telling you the truth?

17 These other men are anxious to gain your friendship, but not for your good. What they want is to separate you from us, in order to get you to eagerly support them.

18 You were so right in your previous eagerness for the truth! But that's an attitude that must continue always, and not be evident only when I'm with you.

19Oh, my dear children! You are forcing me to go through labor pains all over again, until Christ is formed in you.

20How I wish I could be with you now. The very tone in my message would be different than it was before. I'm truly perplexed and in doubt about you.

The Example of Hagar and Sarah

21Listen to me, those of you who want to live under the Law: Aren't you aware of what the Law says?

22It says that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a woman who had always been free.*

*Gal. 4:22 – See Genesis 16:1-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-21.

23The son born to the slave woman was born in the usual way. But the son born to the free woman was born because God had promised he would be born.

24Symbolically, these women represent two agreements. Moses received one agreement from God at Mount Sinai, which gave birth to slavery to the Law. This is Hagar.

25Hagar represents not only the agreement given at Mount Sinai in Arabia, but she also corresponds to Jerusalem in Israel, which, together with her children, even today, live in slavery to the Law.

26But the Jerusalem in Heaven is free. And it's this Jerusalem that's the mother of all of us.*

Gal. 4:26 – ‘The mother of all of us’ ... all of us *who believe in Christ for our right standing with God.

27 Because it is written in the Scriptures:

‘Rejoice, O childless woman who has been unable to bear children! Lift up your voice and shout for joy, you who never felt the pains of childbirth! Because the deserted wife will have more children than the one who now lives with the husband.’ (*Isaiah 54:1*)

28 Now my brothers and sisters, just like Isaac, we are children who have been born because of God’s promise.

29 But the same thing is happening now that happened then: Those who have only natural

birth are persecuting those who have been reborn spiritually by the Spirit of God.

***Gal. 4:29 – “Those who have only natural birth are persecuting those who have been reborn spiritually by the Spirit of God,” or “Those who are born of God’s Spirit are persecuted by those who want us to keep the Jewish laws.”**

30 But again, what does the Scripture say?

‘Send the slave woman and her son away, because the son of the slave woman shall never be an heir together with the son of the free woman!’ (*Genesis 21:10*)

31 Remember, dear friends, we are not children of the slave woman but of the one who is free!

Christ Set Us Free!

5 So take a firm and resolute stand for the liberty you gained when Christ set you free. Don't let anyone entangle you again with a yoke of slavery!

²Listen carefully to what I'm saying. I, Paul, state: If you become circumcised in order to gain God's favor, Christ's sacrifice won't do a thing for you.

³I also warn every one of you: If you become circumcised in order to gain God's favor, you become obligated to obey everything else in the entire Law of Moses, at all times.*

***Gal. 5:3 – “You become obligated to obey everything else in the entire Law of Moses, at all times,” or *perish* (implied).**

⁴All of you who are now trying to get right with God by obeying the Law of Moses have been cut off from Christ!* You have fallen away from His pardoning mercy, which you never did deserve.

***Gal. 5:4 – “Cut off from Christ!” The New American Standard Version states, “*You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by the law.*”**

⁵But with the continued help of the Holy Spirit, we who belong to Christ because of our faith in what He has done for us,

continue to eagerly wait for the fulfillment of the hope of righteousness.*

***Gal. 5:5 – “The hope of righteousness.”** The “hope of righteousness” for which we eagerly await is the full consummation of our salvation. It begins now with imputed righteousness by faith and will conclude with outward glorification (Rom. 8:19, 21). This is God’s final verdict at the end of time of “not guilty,” received by faith and provided through the death of Christ.

⁶Whether we are circumcised or not is of no importance or concern to those of us who are trusting in Christ for salvation. What does matter is faith that expresses itself in true love for God and for others.*

***Gal. 5:6 – See Mark 12:28-34.**

⁷You started out running so well. Who was it that got in your way and kept you from continuing to be convinced as to what the truth really is?

⁸That kind of persuasion isn't coming from God, *who is calling you to freedom in Christ!*

⁹Remember, it takes only a little yeast* to change the whole batch of dough.

***Gal. 5:9 – “Yeast.” *Yeast* here refers to false teaching.**

¹⁰But I still have full confidence in you. I'm sure the Lord will convince you that what I've told you here is the truth. As for the one who is troubling you, whoever he is,

he will have to bear the judgment of God that he deserves.

11 And listen, brothers and sisters, if I'm still preaching that circumcision is necessary for salvation, why am I still being persecuted by the Jews? If I preached that, there wouldn't be any problem with the Jews about the cross of Christ.*

***Gal. 5:11 – Paul at one time preached the necessity of circumcision as a means of acceptance with God. He was a Pharisee when he preached this. If Paul was still preaching circumcision, why was he being persecuted? First Corinthians 1:23 states that the preaching of Christ crucified was a stumbling block to the Jews because it abolished the necessity of law-keeping as a means of acceptance with God.**

12As for those who are causing you all this confusion by insisting you must be circumcised, I wish they would go all the way and emasculate* themselves!

*Gal. 5:12 – “Emasculate,” or *castrate*.

13Because, my brothers and sisters, you have been called to freedom. But you must not use your freedom to satisfy the various desires of your body and mind in a wrong way. Instead, you are to live for the good of one another in the spirit of love.

14Because the whole of the Old Testament Law is summed up in one command. It's this:

‘You are to love others in the same way that you love yourself.’ (*Leviticus 19:18*)

15But if you keep on biting and tearing at each other, watch out or you’ll completely destroy one another.

The War Between Flesh and Spirit

16That’s why I challenge you to think, speak, and act in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then you won’t be in any danger of gratifying any selfish or wrongful sensual desire.

17Because all selfish desires, and all sensual appetites and desires you are tempted to satisfy in a wrongful way are in violent opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit for you. And the desires of the Holy Spirit

for you are in opposition to the wrongful desires that tempt you. There's a constant war going on inside each of us. The Holy Spirit is waging war against our selfishness and against our temptations to satisfy our sensual appetites and desires in a wrongful way, in order to keep us from the wrong we are tempted to do.

¹⁸So then, if you allow yourselves to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you are free from any need to put yourselves under the restraints and control of the Law of Moses.

¹⁹Now the actions produced by corrupt and unrenewed human nature are very evident. They include: adultery, sexual immorality,

all forms of unclean sexual acts, loose living,

²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, fights caused by disagreements, jealousies, outbursts of rage, selfish ambition, violent disagreements, heresies,

²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, carousings, and all other such things. As I warned you before, I warn you again: Those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God!

²²But when you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life, the fruit He will produce in you will be: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23gentleness, and self-control.* There is no law against such behavior.

***Gal. 5:22, 23 – The final results of true conversion are the fruits of the Spirit, which are listed here. These fruits are seen in greater measure as one grows in the knowledge of God’s message to mankind, yields to the Holy Spirit, and is filled with the Spirit.**

24Those who belong to Christ have put to death the wrongful passions and desires of the flesh.

***Gal. 5:24 – True Christians have turned their backs on their old life, crushing and crucifying it.**

25 Since it is the Holy Spirit who has given us new life and hope, we should always let Him run and control our lives.

26 And we shouldn't be conceited and boastful. If we are, we will only drive one another to jealousy and hard feelings.

Be Deeply Concerned for Others

6 My dear brothers and sisters, if a fellow Christian is being overpowered by some sin, it is the duty of those of you who are allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you, to restore that person.* But do so gently, with humble consideration, realizing how concerned you yourself also need to be to keep from falling to temptation.

***Gal. 6:1 – “Restore that person.”** When a Christian appears to be losing interest in the things of the Lord, or is known to be indulging in sin, it is not enough merely to pray for that person. We are responsible before God, according to this Scripture, to go to that person, and talk to him and try to win him back to a vibrant life in the Lord.

²So share each others burdens of conquering the temptations that so harass us. By doing so, we are doing what Christ commanded us to do.*

***Gal. 6:2 – See John 13:34-35.**

³Because anyone who thinks he’s doing fine spiritually while he does little or

nothing to help others, is only fooling himself.

⁴Each of us, then, must carefully examine our own actions. And when we pass the test, we can rejoice in what we ourselves are doing, and not just in what others are doing.

⁵Each of us will be held accountable for what we have done or have failed to do.

⁶Now our concern for others must include sharing all of the good material things we are receiving with the one who is teaching us what God wants us to know.*

***Gal. 6:6 – See 1 Corinthians 9:11-14.**

⁷Don't be fooled! You can't turn up your nose at God and insult Him by ignoring

what He's telling you to do or not do, and get away with it. You will harvest exactly what you have sown.*

***Gal. 6:7 – “You will harvest exactly what you have sown.”** The same principle can be applied to reaping blessed rewards. God is faithful to all His promises as well as to all His warnings.

⁸The person who sows to please the cravings of his lower nature, will from that sowing reap destruction. But the one who sows to the Spirit, will from God reap everlasting life.

⁹And let's not allow ourselves to grow weary of continuing to do what's good and right, because in due time we will definitely reap a most fulfilling, amazing, and

wonderful harvest, if we don't get discouraged and give up.

¹⁰That's why we should use every opportunity we have to do good to everyone, and especially if they are followers of the Lord.

Final Warnings

¹¹Notice how big the letters are when I write to you now with my own hand.

¹²Those who are telling you that you must get circumcised are only concerned about what others will think. Their only reason for trying to compel you to be circumcised is so they won't be persecuted for preaching that the only way you can obtain God's forgiveness is by believing that Jesus

suffered and died on the cross for you, as a sacrifice to God for your sins.

¹³But not even those who insist on circumcision obey the rest of the Law. Still, they want you to be circumcised so they can brag that you are their converts.

¹⁴May God help me never to brag about anything except about what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. And because of Him, the things of the world have become of little importance to me, and those who love the world don't consider me to be of any importance either.

¹⁵Being circumcised or not being circumcised has nothing to do with our being included in Christ's Kingdom. The

only thing that does matter is that we become altogether new and different people than we were.*

***Gal. 6:15 – See 2 Corinthians 5:17. Every person who is truly born again, and thereby become a Christian, undergoes such a change in his views and feelings that it's proper to say of him that he is an altogether new person.**

16May God's peace and mercy rest upon all of you who believe and live according to this truth. May the same be true for all of God's true people everywhere.

17I don't want to be troubled about this matter anymore. I bear in my body the scars from the beatings I have received because of my stand for the freedom we have from the Jewish Law through the Lord Jesus.

18 My brothers and sisters, may the Lord Jesus Christ be especially gracious and big-hearted toward all of you. Indeed! So be it!

Most Sincerely,

Paul

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Various translations may be consulted for answers.

(Galatians Chapter 1)

1. **Read Galatians 1:1.** Paul was chosen to be an apostle by: a. his local church. b. a Christian agency. c. Jesus Christ and God the Father.

2. **Read Galatians 1:2.** Paul's letter to the Galatians was a circular letter that was not going to a city but rather to a Roman province. True or False.

3. **Read Galatians 1:4.** Jesus gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from:
a. this present evil world. b. this present evil age. c. this present age of wickedness. d. the evil influences and dreadful future of those whose god is this present evil age. e. all of the above.

4. **Read Galatians 1:5.** May God our Father be praised: a. during our morning worship service. b. when good things happen to us. c. for ever and ever.

5. Read Galatians 1:6. The Apostle Paul was astonished, shocked, amazed, and surprised that some were turning away so quickly from: a. the apostle's creed. b. the Sunday service. c. GOD, and turning to another way of salvation (gospel).

6. Read Galatians 1:7. Some false teachers are: a. perverting the gospel. b. throwing people into confusion. c. twisting and changing the truth. d. showing others a different way to heaven, which doesn't go to heaven at all. e. trying to change the gospel. f. preaching a version of the gospel that is different from the apostles. g. distorting the gospel. h. opposing the gospel. i. all of the above.

7. **Read Galatians 1:8-9.** If anybody is preaching a false gospel they are to be: a. accursed. b. eternally condemned. c. punished. d. condemned to hell. e. under God's curse to be destroyed. f. anathema, devoted to destruction. g. all of the above.

8. **Read Galatians 1:10.** Paul sought to preach the gospel correctly and thus please God. True or False.

9. **Read Galatians 1:11-12.** The Apostle Paul was taught the gospel: a. by using human reasoning and logic. b. in school. c. through the traditions of men. d. by other human beings. e. by his favorite teacher.

f. straight from God, revealed from Jesus Christ.

10. **Read Galatians 1:13.** The Apostle Paul in his past violently persecuted Christians. True or False.

11. **Read Galatians 1:14.** The Apostle Paul in his past: a. was a Baptist. b. was a Catholic. c. followed the Jewish religion.

12. **Read Galatians 1:15-16.** What happened to Saul, who later became Paul?
a. God's Son was revealed to him. b. God chose to reveal his Son to Paul and through Paul. c. God revealed His Son in Paul. d. God introduced Paul to His Son. e. God

showed Paul all about His Son in a special way. f. all of the above.

13. **Read Galatians 1:18-20.** Paul met Peter: a. 3 days after his conversion. b. 3 years after his conversion. c. 30 days after his conversion.

14. **Read Galatians 1:21.** For a period of time, Paul was personally unknown by the Christian congregations in Judaea. True or False.

15. **Read Galatians 1:23-24.** When the Jewish believers heard of Saul's (Paul's) conversion they glorified God as the author and source of this miracle. True or False.

(Galatians Chapter 2)

1. **Read Galatians 2:1-2.** Fourteen years after Paul's first visit to Jerusalem he went again, this time he went: a. because he needed a vacation (holiday). b. because he wanted to see how large the church had grown. c. God revealed to him that he should go.

2. **Read Galatians 2:1-2.** Paul wanted to clarify to the church leaders in Jerusalem exactly what he was preaching to the Gentiles. True or False.

3. **Read Galatians 2:3.** The church leaders: a. agreed b. disagreed with what Paul was preaching.

4. **Read Galatians 2:3.** The church leaders did not even demand that Titus (Paul's companion in travel) and a Gentile: a. eat pork chops. b. be circumcised. c. give money in the offering plate.

5. **Read Galatians 2:1-3.** Paul's message was identical to the other twelve apostles. True or False.

6. **Read Galatians 2:4-5.** Some false Christians had infiltrated the churches so that they could enslave Christians with

Jewish regulations and defile the truth of the gospel. True or False.

7. **Read Galatians 2:6-8.** The Jerusalem church leaders added nothing to Paul's message and recognized his apostleship to the Gentiles. True or False.

8. **Read Galatians 2:9-10.** James, Peter and John ask Paul to continue to remember to help the poor. True or False.

9. **Read Galatians 2:11.** When Peter came to Antioch, Paul and Peter had a face-to-face confrontation. True or False.

10. **Read Galatians 2:11-13.** The confrontation between Peter and Paul centered around Peter's bad example and hypocrisy that was leading the Jewish Christians astray. True or False.

11. **Read Galatians 2:14.** Peter and the other Jewish Christians were not acting like people who knew and accepted the truth of the gospel. True or False.

12. **Read Galatians 2:15-16.** Paul made it clear that we are justified only by: a. works of the law. b. faith in Jesus Christ. c. attending church on Sundays.

13. **Read Galatians 2:20.** The life that I live in this body is lived by: a. the strength of my health food. b. getting plenty of rest and exercise. c. faith in the Son of God.

14. **Read Galatians 2:20-21.** Can God's grace be frustrated and nullified? Yes or No. How? By going to the law for salvation.

(Galatians Chapter 3)

1. **Read Galatians 3:1.** At one time the Galatians saw clearly the meaning of Jesus Christ death on the cross for them. True or False.

2. **Read Galatians 3:2.** The Galatians received the Holy Spirit by: a. keeping the law. b. attending church regularly. c. believing the message they heard about Christ.

3. **Read Galatians 3:3.** The Galatians started their Christian lives in the Spirit but then tried to become perfect by: a. their own human effort. b. by giving to the poor. c. by church attendance.

4. **Read Galatians 3:5.** God gave the Holy Spirit and worked miracles among the Galatians because: a. they obeyed the law of Moses. b. they believed the message

they heard about Christ. c. they did evangelism door to door.

5. **Read Galatians 3:6.** Abraham believed God and: a. God declared him righteous, that is, put him in a right relationship with Himself. b. God made him rich. c. God increased his flocks.

6. **Read Galatians 3:7.** The real children of Abraham are: a. those born through the lineage of Isaac. b. those born through the lineage of Ishmael. c. all those who have put their faith in God and Christ.

7. **Read Galatians 3:9.** All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received. True or False.

8. **Read Galatians 3:10.** Those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under a: a. blessing. b. safe covering. c. curse.

9. **Read Galatians 3:11.** It is clear that no one can ever be right with God by: a. going to church. b. paying tithes. c. trying to keep the law.

10. **Read Galatians 3:12.** The Living Bible states, *How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says that a*

man is saved by obeying every law of God:

a. and paying tithes. b. without one slip. c. and praying daily.

11. **Read Galatians 3:13.** Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He took that condemnation away when he: a. taught the sermon on the mount. b. hung on the cross and took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. c. healed people.

12. **Read Galatians 3:14.** Through Jesus death on the cross, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to: a. Abraham. b. Moses. c. Elijah.

13. **Read Galatians 3:14.** Jesus died so that by believing we could receive: a. more money. b. the Holy Spirit and His many blessings. c. more of the material things of life.

14. **Read Galatians 3:16.** God made promises to Abraham and to: a. the apostle John. b. Moses. c. his Descendant referring to Christ.

15. **Read Galatians 3:17.** The Law, which came 430 years later, cannot change the agreement made to Abraham and Christ. True or False.

16. **Read Galatians 3:17.** God's promise to save through faith, could not be canceled or changed 430 years later when God gave the Ten Commandments. True or False.

17. **Read Galatians 3:18.** If obeying the Law of Moses could save us, it would be a different way of gaining God's favor than Abraham's way, for he simply accepted God's promise. True or False.

18. **Read Galatians 3:19.** Why did God give the Law? a. to show mankind what was sinful. b. to show people the difference between right and wrong. c. all of the above.

19. **Read Galatians 3:21.** Are God's laws and God's promises against each other? Yes or No.

20. **Read Galatians 3:22.** The Scriptures clearly declare that all people are imprisoned under the power of sin. The law makes this clear, so that we can put our trust in God's promise that right standing with Him will be given to those who believe in: a. going to church and paying tithes. b. doing the best they can. c. Jesus Christ.

21. **Read Galatians 3:23.** Before it was revealed that we could be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, we were under and controlled by the Law. True or False.

22. **Read Galatians 3:24.** The Law acted as a guardian-teacher until Christ came and made us right with God through faith in Him. True or False.

23. **Read Galatians 3:25.** Believers are no longer under the Law, but under the Savior, Christ Himself. True or False.

24. **Read Galatians 3:26.** We are all the children of God: a. by faith in Christ Jesus.
b. by doing the best we can. c. by our good works.

25. **Read Galatians 3:27.** As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have: a.

joined the local church. b. put on Christ.
c. none of the above.

26. **Read Galatians 3:29.** Now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children:
a. of Abraham. b. of Moses. c. of Elijah.

27. **Read Galatians 3:29.** All the promises God gave Abraham belong to you (as a believer in Jesus Christ). True or False.

(Galatians Chapter 4)

1. **Read Galatians 4:1-3.** We were once like children, slaves to: a. Jewish law and rituals. b. the spiritual powers of this world. c. all of the above.

2. **Read Galatians 4:4-5.** When the right time came, God sent His Son: a. to ransom those who were under the Law. b. so that God could adopt us as His very own sons. c. all of the above.

3. **Read Galatians 4:6.** Because you Gentiles have become His sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into: a. the world. b. the worship services. c. our hearts.

4. **Read Galatians 4:7.** Since you are God's child, everything He has belongs to you. True or False.

5. **Read Galatians 4:8-10** (The Living Bible). *Before you Gentiles knew God you were*

slaves to so-called gods that did not even exist. Now that you have found God, how can you go back and become slaves once more to: a. caffeine and dark chocolate? b. alcohol? c. another poor, weak, useless religion of trying to get to heaven by obeying God's laws?

6. Read Galatians 4:12-16. At one time the Galatians deeply cared for Paul. Now because he has told them the truth some were thinking he was there: a. best friend. b. problem. c. enemy.

7. Read Galatians 4:17. The false teacher wanted to isolate the Galatians from the Apostle Paul so they could win them over to

their side, the embracing of a false gospel.
True or False.

8. **Read Galatians 4:19.** Paul wanted Christ to again be formed in the Galatians, that is, to be seen in them. True or False.

9. **Read Galatians 4:21-23.** Abraham had two sons, his son by the free woman (she wasn't a slave) was born as the result of: a. fertility treatments. b. an act of the flesh. c. a promise.

10. **Read Galatians 4:24-25.** In verses 24-25 we see an allegory, the two women represent two covenants, one of law and one of grace. True or False.

11. **Read Galatians 4:26-27** (New Living Translation). Sarah, the free woman represents the heavenly Jerusalem (the Messianic Kingdom of Christ). True or False.

12. **Read Galatians 4:28-29**. We who are born of the Holy Spirit are persecuted by those who want us to keep the law as a means of justification (right standing before God). True or False.

13. **Read Galatians 4:29**. Those who have only a natural birth persecute those who have a spiritual birth. True or False.

14. **Read Galatians 4:30-31**. Those depending on the law for salvation shall not

inherit God's promise that comes through faith. True or False.

(Galatians Chapter 5)

1. **Read Galatians 5:1.** Christ made us free. Don't get tied up again to the chains of slavery to: a. drugs. b. alcohol. c. Jewish laws and ceremonies.

2. **Read Galatians 5:2.** If you let yourselves be circumcised as a means of justification, that is, to make yourselves right with God, then Christ will: a. be happy. b. be of no value to you at all. c. answer your prayers.

3. **Read Galatians 5:2** (The Living Bible). If you are counting on circumcision or any other religious law to make you right with God, then Christ: a. will overlook your faults. b. help you in your effort. c. cannot save you.

4, **Read Galatians 5:4**. If you are trying to get right with God by obeying religious law, then you have fallen: a. down a hill. b. off a ladder. c. on your knees. d. from God's grace.

5. **Read Galatians 5:5**. We are eagerly waiting for the fulfillment of our hope of righteousness that comes through faith. True or False.

6. **Read Galatians 5:6.** Whether we are circumcised or not is of no importance or concern to those who are trusting Christ for salvation. True or False.

7. **Read Galatians 5:6.** What does matter is faith that expresses itself in love for God and others. True or False.

8. **Read Galatians 5:7.** The Galatians were running a good race. They were obeying the truth. Someone was trying to stop them. True or False.

9. **Read Galatians 5:9.** It takes only one person with wrong doctrine to infect all the others. True or False.

10. **Read Galatians 5:11.** The rumor that Paul continued to preach the ways of circumcision (as he did in his pre-conversion days) is absurd. True or False.

11. **Read Galatians 5:13.** As Christians we were given freedom, but not freedom to do wrong, but to love and serve each other. True or False.

12. **Read Galatians 5:14.** All the law is summed up in one command: “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” True or False.

13. **Read Galatians 5:16.** If we walk and are guided by the Holy Spirit then we will

not be in danger of yielding to: a. the flesh.
b. self-indulgence. c. all the above.

14. **Read Galatians 5:17.** The Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from the flesh.
True or False.

15. **Read Galatians 5:18.** If you allow yourselves to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you are free from any need to be put under the restraints of the law. True or False.

16. **Read Galatians 5:19-21.** A person that practices the works of the flesh (indulges in & lives that sort of life), will: a. inherit the

kingdom of God. b. not inherit the kingdom of God. c. be a bad testimony.

17. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** The fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. True or False.

18. **Read Galatians 5:21.** Compare Galatians 5:21 in the New King James Version with Galatians 5:23 in the Moffatt Translation. What word identifies and shows the fruit of those saved and those lost? The word *practice* shows the difference between true repentance and the lack of it.

19. **Read Galatians 5:24.** Those who belong to Christ Jesus: a. say it doesn't matter what you do. b. don't want what the sinful nature loves and longs for.

20. **Read Galatians 5:25.** We should follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. True or False.

(Galatians Chapter 6)

1. **Read Galatians 6:1.** If a Christian is overcome by sin, those who are spiritual should: a. hit him over the head with a baseball bat. b. beat him with whips. c. gently and humbly help that person to get back on the right path.

2. **Read Galatians 6:2.** Share each other's burdens and so fulfill: a. the law of Moses. b. the law of Christ. c. none of the above.

3. **Read Galatians 6:3.** Anyone who thinks he's doing fine spiritually but does little or nothing to help others is only fooling himself. True or False.

4. **Read Galatians 6:6.** We should share with those who instruct us in the Word of God. True or False.

5. **Read Galatians 6:7.** What a person sows, that is what he will harvest as well. True or False.

6. **Read Galatians 6:8.** Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest: a. decay. b. death. c. corruption. d. all of the above.

7. **Read Galatians 6:9.** If you follow the Spirit you will harvest: a. eternal life. b. happiness. c. death.

8. **Read Galatians 6:10.** We should help people whenever we can, especially followers of the Lord. True or False.

9. **Read Galatians 6:12.** Those who were trying to force the Galatians to be circumcised didn't want to be persecuted for

teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save. True or False.

10. **Read Galatians 6:14.** May we never brag about anything except what Christ has done for us on the cross. True or False.

11. **Read Galatians 6:15.** In our life what really counts is: a. that we were circumcised. b. making a lot of money. c. the new creation, receiving a new nature.

12. **Read Galatians 6:17.** The Apostle Paul had in his body: a. wounds. b. scars. c. other outward evidence of persecutions. d. all of the above.

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P.O. Box 150
Ralston, OK 74650 USA
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