

The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Name: _____

Lesson 27

Galatians

Galatians was written by Paul to the Christians in Galatia in approximately 50 – 60 A.D. Paul had planted the pure gospel, and the righteousness of faith among the Galatians, but after his departure, false teachers crept in to overthrow all that he had taught. For the devil cannot but furiously oppose and attack the doctrine of justification by faith, neither can he rest so long as any spark of it remains (Luther's Commentary on Galatians).

Martin Luther
1483-1546



Galatians was most likely Martin Luther's favorite book of the Bible. In Galatians, Luther shows "the central thought of Christianity, the justification of the sinner for the sake of Christ's merits alone." (Graebner).

Luther was repeatedly attacked for holding to the doctrine of justification by faith alone and he noted that as a minister, when he preached this gospel, he suffered by the hands of the world, the devil, and his host, all his hosts. For the gospel teaches a far higher matter than the wisdom, righteousness, and religion of the world, that is to say, free remission of sins through Christ alone (Luther's Commentary on Galatians).

The Judean teachers that came to Galatia wanted the Galatians to believe that they had to become Jews (be circumcised) and keep the laws of



Moses (ceremonial laws) to be saved. Paul in the wisdom given by God, speaks to Galatians with this theme: Justification (or salvation) comes by grace alone, through faith alone, by Christ alone. Paul will not give any glory to man... Glory be to God alone.

1. Who wrote the book of Galatians? _____
2. To whom was the book written? _____
3. When was Galatians written? _____
4. What is the main theme of Galatians? _____
5. Circle Galatia on the map of the Middle East.

Paul begins by saying, “Paul an apostle”, because many now in Galatia said that Paul was not an apostle. Paul was the last apostle to see Jesus (on the way to Damascus). Paul had no ordinary calling. Here he must defend his apostleship and calling. This was not to prop himself up or take glory from God, but because many Judaizers had done much damage to his reputation as the servant of God.

Read Galatians 1

6. Galatians 1: 3-4 says, “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord

Jesus Christ. Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” Explain whose sins Christ died for (see also Ephesians 5:23-25, John 3:16-18, John 17:6-9).

7. What does Christ deliver from? _____
8. Of what does Paul marvel with respect to the Galatians?

9. Paul says of the Judaizers that they brought “another gospel,” which, Paul states, “is not another” because there is only one message of the gospel (good news). What are marks of that other (false) gospel? (Galatians 2:21, 3:12, 4:10, 5:4)

The covenant of works was made between God and Adam in Genesis 2. (See Genesis 2: 16,17 specifically). Adam broke this covenant when he ate of the “tree of

knowledge, good, and evil.” What the “first” Adam could not do, the “second” Adam, namely Christ could do (Psalm 40: 7,8). God the Father, then makes a covenant with God the Son (Jesus) called the Covenant of Grace. Since Jesus is Divine, this covenant could not fail for “it was established upon better promises (Hebrews 8: 6). Yet, that desire to “do and live” (Covenant of Works) lives in all of us. We see this at the time of the conversion of the jailor in Acts 16, “What must I do to be saved?” We also see this in the unconverted “rich, young ruler”, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18: 18).

10. In your own words, what is the difference between the Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace? _____

11. Read Galatians 1:11-12 and Acts 9:1-19. What does Paul mean when he says that he received the gospel by revelation of Jesus Christ and wasn’t taught by man?

12. In what way did Paul “profit in the Jew’s religion above many my equals in mine own nation...” (See Galatians 1: 14, Acts 22: 3, Philippians 3: 5-8). What benefits did Paul have? _____

13. What do you think Paul means by this phrase, “But, when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me...?” _____

What are the two purposes given for this “separation?”

a. _____

b. _____

14. Paul said, “...Immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.” Meaning: Paul did not consult with any people. Why do you think Paul felt it was important to

state this? _____

15. Use Galatians 1:17-24 and Acts 9: 19-26; 2 Cor. 11: 33 to determine the path or the cities into which Paul came after his conversion.

_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____.

16. What was the result of Paul “preaching the faith which once he destroyed?”

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: *To Reveal His Son in me.* Galatians 1:16

Hence begins spiritual life: a life from God, in God, with God, and to God. By the Gospel the Son of God is revealed to us: by the Spirit He is revealed in us. External revelation by the word, and internal by the Spirit, are both necessary to salvation. Though Paul was “separated from his mother’s womb, and called by the grace” of God, yet he had not this inward revelation of Jesus Christ to his heart, till he heard the external word of Christ saying, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” Acts 9:4. Hence learn to prize both the outward testimony of the word, and the inward testimony of the Spirit.

But the chief glory of our souls is the revealing Christ *in us*. O for the reviving influence of this while we consider it. To reveal Christ in us, is to make such a clear discovery of the matchless charms and inestimable glory of His person to our souls, unknown to us before, that our hearts are enamored with Him; we choose Him, love Him, delight in Him, and cleave to Him in all His offices and characters; for by the eye of our soul we “behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, *full of grace and truth*,” to us miserable sinners: hence He is the ONE beloved of our souls.

Without this revelation of Jesus Christ in us, alas! what is all external profession? No more than mere dry formality and drudgery. O my soul, O my dear friends, be not content to live without a constant revelation of Christ to your souls: this makes the conscience peaceful, the heart happy, and the soul joyful: this inspires love, subdues lust, captivates the affections, makes the whole man happy in God, and creates heaven in the soul. If Christ is in the heart, all will be right and well in the life. If you believe in Christ, as revealed in the word, this blessed promise is for you; pray for its daily fulfillment, “I will manifest myself unto him.” John 14:21

Taken from “Spiritual Treasures for the Children of God” by W. Mason