

Galatians

Grace, Faith, &
Freedom

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For Shepherd of the
Hills Lutheran Church
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Goals

- Enable independent reading and understanding of Galatians
 - By shining a spotlight on its primary subject—the gospel—a doctrine that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions
 - By highlighting the thought structure within the letter
 - By providing cultural, geographical and historical background insights
- Offer a forum for questions, clarification, and concerns about the content of the letter

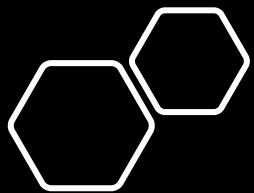
Content

- Session One: Introduction to the Letter and its Key Content
Galatians 1:1—9
- Session Two: Paul's Credibility and Gospel-Alone Integrity
Galatians 1:10—2:21
- Session Three: Old Testament Illustrations and Cultural Analogies
Galatians 3:1—4:31
- Session Four: Faith Brings the Freedom to Live in Love
Galatians 5:1—6:18

Recommendations

Read the entire letter
from start to finish
every week the class
is offered

Note questions you
would like answered
regarding specific
contents of the letter



Class Sessions

Insights into Galatians

6:45

7:25

Questions, Comments, and Concerns

- Chat
- Live

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Introduction to the Letter and Key Content

Galatians 1:1-9

Preliminary Background

Genre

Authorship

Date

Recipients

Content Focus

Genre or Type of Literature

- Epistles in the Bible are letters written to churches or individuals by someone taught directly by Jesus or by one of their students.
- These letters typically address theological misunderstandings and lifestyle issues.

Authorship

- Paul the Apostle (Galatians 1:1)
- Not one of the original Twelve disciples of Jesus but an Apostle confronted, converted, and taught directly by Jesus following his resurrection. (Acts 9:1-19)





Authorship

- Mood
 - Heartfelt
 - Passionate
 - Angry
 - Sarcastic
 - Combative
 - Winsome

Date

- 48-49 AD shortly after Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)
- Just prior to the Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

Recipients

- Churches of Galatia (1:1)
- Paul established gatherings of believers—both Jews and Gentiles—in cities within the Roman province of Galatia on his first missionary journey. Acts 13:13-14:23

“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them **in each church** and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.”

(Acts 14:23 NIV)

Galatia

PISIDIA

Antioch
(Pisidian)

Iconium

Lystra

LYCAONIA

Derbe

Danger-filled, two-week
crossing of Taurus
Mountains (2 Cor. 11:26)

Perga

John Mark departs

PAMPHYLIA

CILICIA

Cilician
Gates

Tarsus

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Antioch
(Syrian)
Seleucia

Aleppo

SYRIA

Paul's First Missionary Journey

CYPRUS

Salamis

Conversion of proconsul
Sergius Paulus

Paphos

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Content Focus


- “Christ” appears 32 times in the letter
- “Grace” appears 18 times in the letter
- “Faith” appears 16 times in the letter
- “Gospel” appears 12 times in the letter
- “Freedom” appears 3 times in the letter



Content Focus—the Gospel

- The gospel presented in the book of Galatians is the forgiveness of sins

acquired for us by Christ,
given to us by grace,
and received by faith
that frees us from the curse
of the law.



The Gospel
Taught by
Paul—the things
God has done
for us

- Predestined by grace
- Justified by grace
- Converted by grace
 - Brought to repentance
 - Called to faith
 - Empowered to believe
- Glorified by grace

Predestined by Grace

- In eternity, the Lord chose us as his own.
- This predestination or election is the cause of all that follows.
- This election is based on grace (God's free gift of love).
 - It is NOT based on chance.
 - It is NOT based on what we would become or do.
 - It is NOT based on our future coming to faith.
- Romans 8:30; Ephesians 1:4-5

Justified by Grace

- Unmerited, forensic declaration of innocence. “Not guilty!”
- This verdict is validated by Jesus’s substitutionary life and death
- Romans 3:23-24; 5:18-19

Converted by Grace


- We were “dead” in transgressions and sins and so unable to respond to God (Ephesians 2:1-5).
- The Holy Spirit
 - Leads us to repent (changes our mind)
2 Corinthians 7:10
 - Calls us to believe
1 Corinthians 7:22
 - Enables saving faith—faith in the words and promises of God
1 Corinthians 12:3
- Saving faith links us to justification.
(Romans 3:28)

Glorified by Grace

- The process ends with our glorification in heaven.

Romans 8:30

- The entire process takes place in the Lord's eternal present and so is complete, even though we experience it over time.



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Problem that Motivated the Letter

- Perversion of the gospel
- Jewish-Christian missionaries (Judaizers) from Jerusalem asserted Paul was wrong.
 - Paul: gospel alone
 - Judaizers: gospel plus

Problem that
Motivated
the Letter

- Perversion of the gospel

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

(Galatians 1:6-7 NIV)

The Vital Question

Are we saved by what God has done or are we saved when we do
something in addition to what God has done?

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Introduction to the Letter and Key Content

Questions and Concerns