

GALATIANS – Study Notes

Author - Paul

Date - around 50 A.D.

Location - Asia Minor (North [Gauls] or South Galatia [Derbe, Iconium, Lystra]). The interpretation is the same no matter where the location.

Setting - Paul was the founder of the church (4.19). His first visit was possibly to recuperate from a sickness in his eyes (4.13). This was a sign of their unusual openness because that day people associated sickness with divine curse (John 9.1). The people in Galatia were primarily Gentiles (2.2,7,8 3.8,14 4.8). He possibly visited Galatia twice before writing this letter (4.13 “first”). Paul’s message focused on Christ and the cross, and receiving salvation and the Spirit by faith (3.1-5). This church was well established and growing (5.7). Sometime just before this letter, Judaizers had come into the church and tried to force them to keep the Mosaic Law (1.6-8 3.1 5.1-4 6.1 - Acts 15.1,5,24). Part of their attack was to try and discredit Paul as a “self-appointed” Apostle (4.17).

Address - 1.1-5

Name of Sender - Paul an APOSTLE - (missing in Philipp and Thess) - NOT from men
Immediately we see a defensive tone / emphasizes that Jesus is not man but God.
“Brothers” are acknowledged but not named - emphasis is on Apostle and his authority

Recipients - Churches in Galatia - (not saints, brothers, growing ones) - bare fact

Greeting - Heart of the gospel of grace and glory // Main Theme of the Letter
Thanksgiving? Conspicuously absent, not thankful for what was happening

“Two Ages” are background (1.4) - Mark 10.30

Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	Chapters 5-6
Personal	Doctrinal	Practical
Gospel Defense	Gospel Declaration	Gospel Display
Grace and the Gospel	Grace and the Law	Grace and the Christian Life
Establishing	Explaining the Gospel	Exhortation
Autobiography	Theology	Ethics
Inspiration	Justification	Sanctification
“the gospel... I received through a revelation of Jesus Christ” 1.11,12	“no one is justified before God by the law” 3.11	“(what) counts...only faith working through love” 5.6

Paul Explains His Authority (1.1-5)

His Ministry vs. 1,2 - given by God not by man

His Message vs. 3,4 - Person of Christ, Price He Paid, Purpose He did it

His Motive v. 5 - glory of God

Paul Expressed His Anxiety (1.6-7)

They were Deserting the Grace of God - balance: Legalism - Liberty - License

They were Perverting the Gospel of God - Christ plus.....Law, tongues, baptism

Sola Scriptura, Gracia, Fide, Christus

WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE AND WE LIVE BY GRACE - Coloss 2.7

Paul Exposes His Adversaries (1.8-10)

False gospel they preached - not numbers of success, reasonableness

False motives they practiced - pleasing to men, not God // ambassador not politician

Paul's Message and Ministry come from God (1.11-12) - his life is the best proof:

The Persecutor (1.13,14) - Saul of Tarsus became Paul the Apostle, to the Gentiles

The Believer (1.15,16,24)

God did it (v. 15a, 16a)

God did it by grace (15b)

God did it through Christ (16a)

God did for the sake of others (16b)

God did it for His glory (24)

The Preacher (1.16c-23)

He went to Arabia (v. 17b)

He went back to Damascus (17c)

He finally visited Jerusalem (18-20)

He returned home to Tarsus (21-23)

Galatians Chapter 2 // Acts 15

Issue - Not whether Gentiles can be saved - Mt. 28 “all nations”

BUT must Gentiles become Jews in order to be saved (ex. Ruth) / Jesus not too clear “dogs” - an open question apart from Pauline revelation

2.1-10 - 3 “Act” Play which //’s Acts 15 - Paul, Barnabas, Titus, James, Peter, John

Act 1 - Private Consultation - Galatians 2.1,2 / Acts 15.2 / Colossians 2.10-11

Act 2 - Public Convocation - Gal. 2.3-5 // Acts 15.5-21 / Ephesians 2.11-22

Titus - Gentile not circumcised // Timothy - Jewish mother (Acts 16.1-3 - 1 Cor 9)
“the Truth of the Gospel” 2.5,14

Act 3 - Personal Confirmation - Gal 2.6-10 / Psalm 133 “unity”

Same Gospel, different ministries, they will reach other groups - Paul to synagogues
Gentiles will be sensitive to areas of Jewish concerns // Helping the poor, esp. Jerusalem

Galatians 2.11-13 - Peter’s Fall - Common and easily understood / emotional up & down
Tragedies 1) Made him a hypocrite 2) It led others to fall

Paul’s Rebuke of Peter 2.14-21 - same principle different practice / imptc of practice!!

Unity of Church v. 14

Justification by faith v. 15-16 / Romans 3 & 4

Freedom from Law v. 17,18 / Acts 15.10

The Gospel itself v. 19,20

The Grace of God v. 21

Questions: Have I been saved by grace alone? Am I trying to add to Grace my works?
Do I rejoice that I am fully justified? Am I walking in the balance of liberty? Do I defend
the truth of the Gospel? Discerning theological from personal issues? Am I walking
uprightly?

Galatians 3 & 4

Arguments of Chapter 3 & 4 -

3.1-5 Personal Experience - you met Jesus & received Spirit before Judaizers

3. 6-14 Scriptural - those who believe are in the covenant with Abraham

3.15-29 Logical - present freedom is greater than former bondage

4.1-11 Historical - Now they know God as Father not as Schoolmaster

4.12-18 Sentimental - "Am I, the one who led you to Jesus, now your enemy?"

4.19-31 Allegorical - using Judaizer's method of interpretation / grace over nature

3.1-5 - key idea - How can you deny what you know you have experienced?

v. 1 "your very eyes" / v. 2 "receive" / v. 3 "beginning" / v. 4 "suffered/experienced"

Experience ALONE is not a good enough reason, but we need BOTH exp & TRUTH

v. 1 - Importance of preaching Jesus and the cross - 1 Cor 1.18

v. 2 - Holy Spirit mentioned 18 X's in this book - received by FAITH not works
Once the child is born, nothing needs to be added to its nature, it just needs to GROW

v. 5 - "Miracles - among you / within you"

3.6-14 - Our experience is ONLY VALID if it is CONSISTENT with Scripture

1 - 5 - Six questions // 6 - 14 Six O.T. quotations

6-7 Abraham was saved by faith - physical relationship with him not enough - Matt 3.9

8-9 Salvation is for the Gentiles - Gen 12.3 / v. 8 "Scripture foresaw"

10-12 Salvation is by faith, not by Law / James 2.10,11 - Habak 2.4

13-14 Salvation comes through Jesus / OT curse of exposed body Dt 21.33 - humiliation
this is why Jews stoned their criminals

LEGALISM APPEALS TO THE FLESH - “flesh” = SELF 3.1 “bewitched”

People love to have rules and be known as obeying them completely
4.10, Phil 3.1-10

Appeals to the senses - we want to SEE - John 4.24, 2 Cor 5.7, Heb 11.1

Can compare yourself with others - Luke 18.9-14, 6.13,14

3.15-18 The Law Cannot change the Promise - a marriage/covenant is inviolable
Covenant was made in Christ - “the seed” / Moses cannot alter it

19-20 Law is not greater than the Promise

19a Law was temporary - many conditional statements

19b-20 Law required a mediator / but Covenant was directly with God / not via Moses

3.21-26 Law is not Contrary to the Promise

21 Law was not given to provide life // 2.21 - why did Jesus die if Law was enough?

19a, 22 Law was given to reveal sin

23-26 - Law was given to prepare the way for Christ / “aya” not teacher - total care
work of the aya was to prepare for the maturity of the child
aya is not the parent - they regulate and guide the life - **THEY DO NOT GIVE LIFE**

Purpose of the Law was to bring sinners to the Savior - Jesus has come!

3.27-29 Law cannot do what promise can do -

Law cannot justify guilty sinners - it can only condemn / Exod 23.7 – Rom 4.5

Law cannot unite God and man - it can only separate / faith unites “in Christ”

Law creates distinctions - of Israel and within Israel / faith unites all in Christ

Law could never make us heirs of God / to become a child is to be an heir

WE ARE GOD’S CHILDREN IN CHRIST!!!!!!

A Child	A Son
by Regeneration	by Adoption
Entering the Family	Enjoying the Family
Under Guardians	Free as an Adult
Cannot Inherit	Heir of the Father

Chapter 4

Tragedy of Legalism - Person looks very spiritual but in reality they're only babes

Motive may be right - they want to grow spiritually - but their methods are wrong

LAW allows us to see results // Old Nature is attracted to Law - feeds our pride

THEME - we do not need legalism to live a Xtian life - We have all we need in Jesus

4.1-7 Our Adoption Explained

WE ENTER GOD'S FAMILY BY REGENERATION - but by New Birth - John 3.3

WE ENJOY GOD'S FAMILY BY ADOPTION - Rom 8.14-17, Eph 1.5, 1 John 3.1

ADOPTION = "to place as an adult son" / Ref. Our STANDING in God's family

Our POSITION = Sons of God // Our CONDITION = spiritual babes 1 Peter 2.2,3

v. 1-3 What we were - children in bondage

No matter how wealthy our father may be, a baby cannot fully enjoy his wealth.

Roman World - small children were cared for by slaves / supervised by a servant (even the most wealthy children)

// Spiritual Condition of the Jews under the Law - a "guardian" to lead them to X 3.24

Thus, Judaizers leading Galatians back to legalism = spiritual infancy and immaturity

LAW is not measure of maturity - but evidence of immaturity / Maturity only in X

Rom 10.4 "Christ is the end of the Law" / Eph 4.13 faith + knowledge = maturity

v. 4-5 What God did: Redeem us

“fullness of time” - God’s perfect plan fulfilled in X - Mark 1.15, 2 Cor 1.20

Rome - old religions were dying - old philosophies empty - no power to change man

Hawaii - King K united islands - died - Queen broke “kapu” laws - 1 yr.later M’s came

Rome - System of roads, common language, law and order, Pax Romana

4.4 Jesus = God and man (came forth as God - John 16.28)

Who - God’s Son / When - fullness of time / How - born of woman

WHY - v. 5 REDEEM US “set slaves free by the paying of a price”

60 million slaves in Roman empire / could be purchased in any Roman city

Child of God
by regeneration
entering the family
under guardians
cannot inherit

Son of God
by adoption
enjoying the family
liberty of an adult
heir of the Father

v. 6-7 What we are: Sons and Heirs / WORK OF THE TRIUNE GOD

CONTRAST - between Servants and Sons

Son has same nature as the Father	Servant does not
Son has a Father	Servant has a Master
Son obeys out of Love	Servant obeys out of Fear
Son is Rich	Servant is Poor
Son has a Future	Servant has None

Galatians like Prodigal who wants to be servant - when Father wants us as Sons, Luke 15

SON HAS SAME NATURE AS FATHER - servant does not

2 Peter 1.4 “partakers of the divine nature” / Law cannot change our nature

SON HAS FATHER “Abba” intimate closeness w/God - SERVANT HAS MASTER

SON OBEYS OUT OF LOVE - SERVANT OUT OF FEAR - John 14.15

Spirit of God changes our heart to love God 5.22 / Rom 5.5 “love in our hearts by Spirit”

Law can never produce obedience

SON IS RICH - SERVANT IS POOR

Riches of His....

grace - Eph 1.7, 2.7 - glory Phil 4.19 - goodness Rom 2.4 - wisdom Rom 11.33

All of the Riches of God are found in Christ - Colossians 1.19, 2.3

SON HAS A FUTURE - SERVANT DOES NOT

2 Cor 12.14 - Father always provides for his son

Final Stage of Adoption (Rom 8.23 “of bodies”)

2 stages of Roman adoption - Private Ceremony - time of purchase

Public Ceremony - declared openly before officials // 2nd coming of X ??

4.8-11 Paul Laments their Regression

Why did they exchange their liberty for bondage? Falling back into slavery

v. 9 “weak and miserable principles” / Law cannot make one rich and powerful

v. 10 How fell? Returning to OT system of ritual, regulations, shadows Coloss 2.17

WE CAN OBSERVE “SPECIAL DAYS” AS EXPRESSION OF OUR LIBERTY
and receive a blessing - but not if we think that through them we gain any merit

Rom 14.4-13 Liberty in Expressions and Observances

4.12-18 Paul Seeks their Affection

A wise spiritual father who balances his rebuke with words of love

After spanking a child we should embrace and restore them to our love

Judaizers had stolen their loyalty and affection from their “father” Paul

Galatians saw beyond any ugly outward appearance and received holy Word of God

False Teachers - try to gain followers by stealing them from others

Paul

hard work of beginning
grace and freedom
loving father
spoke the truth
glorified Christ
served people
loving rebuke (Prov 27.6)

Judaizers

thieves who stole the harvest
law and bondage
harsh slavers
sold them lies
glorified themselves
used people
lying kisses

Are we moving forward in liberty or backwards into bondage?

4.19-23 Historical Facts - real events, basis of his allegory

/ Paul gives divine interpretation

Basis of Verses - Genesis 12-21 - Traces Life of Abraham

Age 75 - Called to Canaan - Promise of a Son to childless couple 12.1-9

85 - No son yet, Sarah impatient, Sarah give Abe Hagar / legal not moral 16.1-3

86 - Hagar is pregnant - Sarah is jealous - throws her out - God brings her back
Ishmael born 16.4-16

99 - God again promises a son to Abe and Sarah - will be Isaac chs 17 & 18

100 - Son is born / Now Ishmael has a rival 21.1-7

103 - Ishmael mock's his baby brother Isaac > sent away 21.8-14

TALE OF FAMILY PROBLEMS - REVEALS SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES

4.24-29 Spiritual Truths

Old Covenant

Law
Hagar the slave
Ishmael, son of flesh
Earthly Jerusalem - bondage

New Covenant

Grace
Sarah the freewoman
Isaac, son of miracle
Heavenly Jerusalem - freedom

Justification	Sanctification
I am Saved!	I am being Saved!
Something to Believe	Something to Do
Objective Fact	Subjective Feelings
Released from Sin's Penalty	Being Released from Sin's Power
Change in my Legal Status	Change in my Lifestyle
A Possession	A Progression
What God does for me	What God does in me
Imputed Righteousness	Imparted Righteousness
Put in His Church	Protection for your church
Enlisted into His Service	Endure until you see Him
Christ dying for my sins on cross	Christ at work in me by Holy Spirit
Once and For All	One Day at a Time
Declared Holy	Developing in Holiness
"how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard" Hebrews 2.3	"He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him" Hebrews 5.9

Isaac illustrates THE BELIEVER

4.29 Born by the Power of God - John 3.3-5 / Ephes 2.8,9

Bringer of Joy - joy of new life in X

Grew and was weaned - did not remain a baby - Hebrews 5

He was persecuted - when no believer, sin is not threatened, false peace

Hagar vs. Sarah = Law vs. Grace // Ishmael vs. Isaac = flesh vs. Spirit

Law does not make more spiritual - IT ONLY INTENSIFIES CONFLICT W/ FLESH

"The old nature knows no law, the new nature needs no law"

TWO WIVES - their meaning

Hagar was the 2nd Wife // leaving grace for law - we begin with grace and continue in it

Hagar was a slave - 5 x's called slave / Sarah is picture of liberty / Law is not a mother!!

Hagar not meant to bear the child - result of disobedience to God -

Law cannot give life 3.21 or righteousness 2.21 or gift of Spirit 3.2 or inheritance 3.18

Hagar gave birth to a slave - "wild man" Gen 16.12 / nobody could control him

Nature and Spirit are contrary to eachother 5.17

Hagar was cast out - done so by Sarah - Grace triumphs over Law / Spirit over Flesh

Judaizers sought to reconcile Hagar and Sarah - it was impossible

Hagar was not married again - Covenant is only with Israel - no other nation

Abraham's broken heart (sending Ishmael) meant Isaac's liberty (freedom of true son)
IN ORDER FOR US TO BE REDEEMED - FATHER'S HEART HAD TO BE
BROKEN

4.30-31 Practical Blessings

How do we reconcile these two positions - Hagar and Sarah? 2 different methods?

WE CAN TRY TO CHANGE THEM - cannot change Law or our old nature John 3.6

God did not change Hagar and Ishmael - Flesh and Law - He sent them away

WE CAN TRY TO COMPROMISE WITH THEM - did not work in Abe's home

neither will it work in our lives - Galatians were trying - yet they were losing Christ 4.9

WE CAN CAST THEM OUT - this is what the believer must do
Christ has come / the Law must go / Law cannot give life or fruit

Israel
earthly Jerusalem
bondage
barren legalism

Church
heavenly Jerusalem
freedom
fruitful grace

Problem of Legalism - not setting of spiritual standards, worshipping them, or thinking that through them we receive grace or standing before God

Pharisees had high standards but they crucified Jesus

You can not smoke, drink, or swear - and still not be spiritual
it takes more than negatives to make a positive, spiritual life

Fighting breaks out in a legalistic church - Isaac & Ishmael cannot live together - ch 5

Galatians 5 - Right Practice based on Good Doctrine

Some fear the teaching of liberty in Christ because they think it leads to license.

Inner Discipline of God is better than Outward Discipline of Man-made rules

Summary of chapters 5 & 6

5.1-12 - I am free in Christ, no longer under the bondage of the law

5.13-26 - I need something/one to control me from within / the Holy Spirit

6.1-10 - Because of the Spirit's love - I have a desire to live for others, not self

6.11-18 - I want to live this life of liberty for the glory of God
Contrasting thought of the Legalist

1. If I obey these man-made rules, I will become a more spiritual person

2. I have the strength to obey and improve myself

3. I am growing to become much better than other people

4. If only others were as good as me! Our church is better than any other!

STRONG CONFLICT - between "flesh" and "Spirit"

CANNOT GET ALONG TOGETHER - LIKE ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

works of the flesh / fruit of the Spirit

DEFINED - "flesh" -

NOT - soft tissue of skin & muscle which covers our bones

NOT - human body, or our sexuality

GOOD - ERASE LAST LETTER AND SPELL FLESH BACKWARDS - SELF

DEF - FALLEN HUMAN NATURE INHERITED FROM ADAM

IMAGE OF GOD DISTED AND DISTORTED BY SIN

BIAS TOWARD EVIL, SELFISH DEMANDS

"Spirit"

NOT - the breath which animates our bodies

NOT - our spiritual side in contrast to our physical nature

DEF - "the Holy Spirit of God Himself" 2nd Person of the Trinity

ENTERS OUR LIVES WHEN WE REPENT OF SINS AND TRUST IN JESUS

OUR BODIES ARE MORALLY NEUTRAL - controlled by flesh or Spirit?

TWO PROTAGANISTS IN THE STRUGGLE - RAGES WITHIN US

"flesh" - our self-centered fallen nature

"Spirit" - personal indwelling Spirit of God

BIBLE PICTURES - SHEEP - clean animals which avoid garbage

PIGS - unclean animal loves to wallow in filth

5.1-12 The Seriousness of the Issue

Do not be deceived - circumcision as the Judaizers advocate is no innocent thing
IT MEANS THE ACCEPTANCE OF A LAW RELIGION

YOU MUST CHOOSE EITHER LAW OR GRACE - YOU CANNOT HAVE BOTH

What is lost if you want to be a legalist:

v. 1 You lose your Freedom

LAW is like - 3.23 “prison” / 4.2 “guardian” / 4.22 “slave woman” / 5.1 “yoke”

Acts 15.10 “yoke” word used by Peter / Matt 11.28-30 by Jesus

Lev 26.13 - God delivered Israel by breaking the yoke of Egypt / Lam 1.4 yoke of sin

We no longer need external force when we have the internal leading of Holy Spirit

SOMETHING THAT ISLAM CANNOT OFFER // Romans 8.1-4

Some people are afraid of liberty and seek system and/or leaders than control them

v. 2-6 You lose your Wealth

v. 2 “no value” / v. 3 “obligated” / v. 4 “fallen away” / v. 6 “no value”

God gives us **THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE** - Eph 1.7, **GLORY** Eph 1.18

WISDOM - Rom 11.33, **OF CHRIST** - Eph 3.8, **TREASURE** - Colos 2.3

The Law adds nothing to salvation, because nothing could be added / **FINISHED**

5.4 Fallen from grace / but still considered believers / “brothers” used 9 x’s

3.1 “bewitched” / 4.9 “turned back” / 5.4 “fallen from grace”

5.7-12 - You Lose your Direction

Lost the race you were winning / Illus. not for salvation but for Xtian growth

WE DO NOT RUN TO BE SAVED, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY SAVED

JUDAIZERS had cut into their running lane / they lost their position

v. 9 Image changes from athletics to cooking / Leaven symbol of sin

Exod 12.15-19, 13.7, 34.25, Matt 16.6-12, 1 Cor 5

Yeast begins small but soon influences everything // **FALSE DOCTRINE**

Legalism can come in because it looks so good, righteous, devout, and sincere

v. 12 - How serious is this sin, Paul wants no part of it in the church

5.13-15 Spirit enables us to Fulfill the Law of Love

Liberty not intended for License / It should result in obedience from the heart - John 14.15

Liberty - love = license // Liberty + love = service to others

Love would solve the problem in every human relationship

5.15 Without love we are wild animals / destroying each other

5.16-21,24 The Spirit enables us to Overcome the Flesh

Isaac and Ishmael could not get along / Spirit and the flesh (sinful nature) conflict

Difference between a sheep and a pig // Or a dove and a raven

v. 17 EVEN IN THE STRONGEST CHRISTIAN - STRONG IMPULSE TO DO EVIL

CHRISTIAN IN CONFLICT WITH WORLD, DEVIL, HIS OWN FLESH

2) DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT ARE OPPOSITE

FIERCE ANTAGONISM EXISTS BETWEEN THEM

V. 17 MADE PLAIN IN THEIR RESULTS

v. 18 - Solution is not to Struggle in Flesh but to Surrender

v. 19-21, 24 The Crucifixion

Works of the flesh are list // “works” what we do / “fruit” what only God can do

Flesh can manufacture sin but cannot produce righteousness - Jer 17.9,
Mark 7.20-23, Rom 1.29-32, 1 Tim 1.9-10, 2 Tim 3.2-5

Calvin “the heart is a factory of idols”

v. 19, 21 Sensual sins - immorality, adultery, fornication, orgies // Common in Rome

WORKS OF THE FLESH

SEXUAL SINS (sexual immorality, impurity)

v. 20 Spiritual sins - Idolatry, witchcraft

RELIGIOUS SINS (idolatry, witchcraft)

v. 20, 21 Social Sins - hatred, discord, jealousy, wrath, strife

SOCIAL SINS (hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage,
selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy)

PERSONAL SINS (drunkenness, orgies)

UGLY CATALOGUE OF ACTIVITIES
PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST GOD, OTHERS, AND EVEN THEMSELVES

v. 21 - Habitual practice / not set free by X / 1 John 3.6

v. 24 Old Nature must be put to death in Christ / "die with Christ" / Rom 6

DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT ARE ACTIVE

alive, active, energetic, and strong

DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT ARE CONTROLLABLE

BUT NOT EASY - PICTURE OF CRUCIFIXION & SURRENDER (Romans 6.3-13)

MAN HIKING IN MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MET AN OLD MOUNTAINEER WITH 2 DOGS - CONTINUOUSLY FIGHTING
HIKER ASKED OLD MAN WHICH DOG USUALLY WON
CHEWED HIS TOBACCO AND THOUGHT A MINUTE "the one I feed the most"

5.22-23, 25-26 The Spirit enables us to Produce Fruit

Negative goodness is not enough // There must be positive qualities produced

1. Love is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in us
2. Love is the most important thing for a Christian

v. 22 "the fruit of the Spirit is love" PRIDE OF PLACE

ALL OTHER QUALITIES ARE AN APPLICATION OF LOVE

Chief distinguishing mark of the Christian?

A) TRUTH?? - ORTHODOXY - RIGHT DOCTRINE - CORRECT BELIEF

Great Catholic Creeds (Nicene) and Reformation Confessions

Truth is Sacred - Sound Doctrine is VITAL TO HEALTH OF THE CHURCH

called to "fight the good fight of faith"

"stand firm and hold to the teachings of the apostles"

"contend for the faith that was once for all given to the saints"

KNOWLEDGE PUFFS UP, BUT LOVE BUILDS UP
SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

"IF I HAVE ALL KNOWLEDGE, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING"

B) FAITH?? - WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE

LUTHER "justification by faith alone is the principle article of all Christian doctrine"

"IF I HAVE A FAITH THAT CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE,
I AM NOTHING"

C) RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE?? - BAPTISM OF SPIRIT - TONGUES, PROPHECY

a personal relationship with God through Christ is essential

IF I SPEAK IN TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS - HAVE THE GIFT OF
PROPHECY, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING

D) CHRISTIAN SERVICE?? - THE POOR - JUSTICE - PEACE - RECONCILIATION

Jesus was a champion of the poor - stood for justice

Faith without works is dead

"IF I GIVE ALL I POSSESS TO THE POOR AND SURRENDER MY BODY TO THE
FLAMES, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I GAIN NOTHING"

DOCTRINAL TRUTH IS VITAL
FAITH IS INDISPENSABLE
RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY
SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL

LOVE IS THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD

GOD IS LOVE - IN HIS INNERMOST BEING

FATHER, SON, SPIRIT - ETERNALLY UNITED IN SELF-GIVING LOVE

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE HAS FIRST LOVED US

HUDSON TAYLOR - INTERVIEWED CANDIDATES FOR MISSION
WORK/CHINA "why do you want to go as a foreign missionary?"

- 1 - "I want to go because Christ commanded us to go"
- 2 - "I want to go because millions are perishing w/out Christ"

TAYLOR "These are good motives, but only one will sustain you in times of trial,
testing, and possibly death - THE LOVE OF CHRIST"

3. Love brings joy and peace

HUMAN BEINGS HAVE ALWAYS PURSUED THESE - CALLED HAPPINESS

Thomas Jefferson - Declaration of Independence

"self evident truth - pursuit of happiness is inalienable human right"

THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS WRONG -

THOSE WHO PURSUE HAPPINESS NEVER FIND IT
PEOPLE USED TO SAY "DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY" -
MADE SOMEONE HAPPY - SOLD T-SHIRTS, POSTERS, AND CERAMICS

TRY TO REACH OUT AND GRAB HAPPINESS - SLIPS THRU YOUR FINGERS

TEMPORARY HAPPINESS - SOME POSSESSION - THING POSSESSES US

HAPPINESS / JOY AND PEACE / IS A BY-PRODUCT OF LOVE

WHEN WE LIVE IN THE SPHERE OF LOVE WE EXPERIENCE THEM

"peace of God which passes all understanding"

4. Love issues in Action : "patience, kindness, goodness"

LOVE IS NOT JUST AN EMOTION - ROMANCE - ABSTRACT FEELING

RESULTS: POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND CONCRETE ACTIONS

PATIENCE - negative quality, "longsuffering"

WITH PEOPLE, NOT WITH CIRCUMSTANCES

"unlimited patience of Christ toward us" 1 Tim 1.16

KINDNESS - wishing good for others

GOODNESS - doing good for others

INTENTIONAL PROGRESSION - 1) restrain bad thoughts toward people

2) cultivate good thoughts

3) carry out good deeds

5. Love is balanced by Self-control : "faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF MASTERY OF OURSELVES

FAITHFULNESS - reliability, trustworthiness, keeping our promises

GENTLENESS - power under control, right use of our strengths

SELF-CONTROL - disciplining our instincts

restraining our our temper, tongue, passions

LOVE IS BALANCED BY SELF CONTROL

COMPLIMENT - self-giving / self-control

WE CANNOT GIVE SELVES UNTIL WE LEARN TO CONTROL OURSELVES

WE MASTER OURSELVES TO BE USEFUL TO THE MASTER

Dr. Kenneth Moynagh - SPENT LIFE - MEDICAL MISSIONARY IN BURUNDI:

"Joy is love exulting, and peace is love at rest;
Patience, love enduring in every trial and test.
Kindness, love yielding to all that is not sin,
Goodness, love in actions that flow from Christ within.
Faith is love's eyes opened the living Christ to see;
Gentleness, love not fighting, but bowed at Calvary.
Self-control, love in harness and under Christ's control,
For Christ is love in person, and love, Christ in the soul.

FINALLY - THIS FRUIT MUST BE EATEN
Aaron grew small tomatoes - VERY PROUD - WE WERE PROUD
SMALL BOWL ON THE COUNTER - ALL COULD SEE
ADMIRE IT FOR SO LONG IT ROTTED - NEVER ENJOYED THEIR TASTE

WORLD STARVING FOR LOVE - IN ALL ITS FULLNESS
"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"
LET THE WORLD TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Galatians 6

6.1-5 Bearing Burdens

Legalist is not interested in this / He only adds to people's burdens - Acts 15.10

Nothing reveals ugliness of legalism more than way they treat sinners - John 8.1-12
LEGALISTS DO NOT NEED FACTS - THEY ONLY NEED RUMOR & SUSPICION

A CONTRAST IN AIM

Spiritual man - would restore a brother in love / Legalist - expose and humiliate

"restore" def. mend as a torn net, set as a broken bone / 5.13,22 "love"

Jesus was severely criticized for having such love - Mark 2.13-17 // Luke 18.9-14

A CONTRAST IN ATTITUDES

Spiritual man - has gentleness and love / Legalist - pride and condemnation

Legalist will not "watch himself" - thinks he could never fall into such a sin
1 Corinth 10.12 / Matthew 7.3-5

Spiritual man applies "the law of love" - 5.13

Spiritual man wants to “win” or “restore” a soul / Legalist does not care for them

Spiritual man - tries to respect another’s weakness / Legalist - makes self look good at the expense of another’s weakness 6.13 “may boast about your weakness”

Burdens? v. 2 “heavy burden” / v. 5 “soldiers pack”

If you have a problem you may get other’s help, but they do not take your responsibility

Corporate Responsibility	Individual Accountability
6.1a correct a sinning Christian	6.1b look to yourself (you singular)
6.2 to bear one another’s burdens	6.3-5 test your work, bear your own load
6.6 support those who teach	6.7-8 how you sow, you will reap
6.9,10 do good to all, especially believers	

6.6-10 Sharing Blessings

6.6 Precept - Teacher shares the word // Members share their material blessings

Paul was often willing to teach “at his own expense” 2 Cor 11.20, 1 Thess 2.

But he taught that believers were responsible to care for the pastor’s needs
1 Cor 9.11,14 // Luke 10.7 // (and missionaries Phil 4.10-19)

6.7,8 Principle -Wider Application - Givers will get a greater blessing

Money sown to the flesh will bring a harvest of corruption // to the Spirit will bring life

6.9 Promise - We will reap a harvest, if we do not give up

6.10 “as we have opportunity” - do not think you can save the world

“to all men” - Matt 5.16, Luke 10.25-37 “Samaritan is even our neighbor”

“especially believers” - a matter of balance, pray for realism 1 Tim 5.8

6.11-18 Final Contrast and Challenge

v. 11 Paul usually only wrote the final greeting - here he writes last paragraph
Large letters were because of his eye problem? some think so 4.15

6.11-18 Paul’s Handwritten Final Appeal

The earlier part of Paul’s letter was dictated/handwritten

Now the man with poor eyes makes a strong appeal / Come and die with Jesus

Contrast - Living for the praise of men or the praise of God // Our Motive??

6.12-13 The Legalist

v. 12a, 13b They are braggarts - Main purpose, win more converts to brag

We must not use people only to promote our own pride and glory

v. 12b They are compromisers - seeking to escape persecution

Cross was not a piece of jewelry or decoration // But a form of execution

v. 12a They are persuaders - “trying to compel you”

They were cunning and slick - trying to persuade for their own gain

v. 13 They are hypocrites - do not obey the law they teach others to obey

Jesus Christ 6.14-16

Paul focuses on the cross 2.20,21 3.1,13 4.5 5.11,24 6.12

Legalists boasted of circumcision / Paul boasted about crucifixion

He knew the Person of the Cross - 45 x's mentions Jesus in this letter / 1/3 of verses

He knew the Power of the Cross - Jews saw cross as terrible curse

for Paul cross was freedom from self (2.20), flesh (5.24), and the world (6.14)

Cross attacks human ego and pride // Am I really that bad??

He knew the Purpose of the Cross - make a new people of God / new creation 14,15

Apostle Paul 6.17-18

Pagans would have tattoo of their idol/god - Paul bears the wounds of the cross

Grace - not from Moses - but from the Lord Jesus!!

Permanent Value of the Letter

Judaizers are long gone - but the issue they represented remains alive today

Faith and Works / We need to “see Jesus crucified today” / Life-giving power of Spirit

To who today?

- 1) To Religious (Muslim?) Judaizers - no salvation by bondage of laws
- 2) To Christian Legalizers - who glory in their works (or their miracles)
- 3) To Doubt Ridden Believers - stand as a child of God!

We need to have our Identity as God's children - secure in Christ

GOD COULD NOT LOVE US MORE / GOD WILL NOT LOVE US LESS

Preach Circumcision	Preach the Cross
"Save yourself by good works"	"No goodness, only Christ can save you"
Our Work is Essential for Salvation	Our Works are Expression of His Salvation
Inoffensive, Popular, Flattering	Offensive, Unpopular, Insulting
Fuels our Pride	Forces us to be Humble
Avoids Persecution	Invites Persecution
Supplemented by a Savior	Sunk without a Savior
About Us	About God