The Epistle to the Galatians Bible Survey 2018

Galatians One: Challenging Paul’s Gospel Calling and Authority

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Introduction
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.
* Where is Galatia? Who were the Galatians?
* In the first chapter of the epistle to the Galatians, Paul addresses three issues that have been called into question about his ministry:
	+ His Message -- The uniqueness and Godly origin of the Gospel he preaches
	+ His Calling -- His calling as a man of God and representative of the Gospel
	+ His Reputation – The validity of his ministry among the other disciples
* What do we know about Paul’s testimony and personal history that might lead to these issues being called into question?
1. Paul’s Credentials in Christ
* **Galatians 1:6-9** – What problem does Paul suggest is threatening the Galatians church?
* Why would “an angel from heaven” pose a danger to the church? **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**
* Can you name some false religions that were caused by angelic deception?
* What is the correct response when we are presented with a gospel message that is different in any way from what we have been taught? **1 John 4:1 Acts 17:10-11**
* **Galatians 1:10** – Paul seems to be suggesting that people who preach a Gospel different than he are actually try to please who? What does this suggest about the origin of many popular ministries that seem to preach a watered-down gospel message? **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
* **Galatians 1:11-12** – When did Paul “receive” his message from “Jesus Christ?”
* **Galatians 1:13-14**, **15-17** – What is Paul saying about his “calling?” What are his “credentials?”
* Paul testified to his calling from God before Agrippa in **Acts 26:12-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20**
* Who calls a person to serve God? This was the conviction of the early church: **Acts 4:18-20**
* **Galatians 1:18-20**, **21-24** – What does Paul have here that no one can take away from him?
* How does this apply to our own life, testimony and calling? **2 Peter 1:10-11**
1. Questions?

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Galatians Two: Defending the Gospel at Jerusalem

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Review
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.
* What modern nation is Galatia located in?
* What is Paul concerned about in Chapter 1 that led him to write to the churches in Galatia?
* Where did Paul get his Gospel message?
* Where did Paul get his calling and authority to preach?
* Why did people doubt his calling?
* The Apostle James that Paul met after his conversion was the brother of who?
1. Paul’s Confrontation with the Church Leaders
* **Galatians 2:1-5** – Why did Paul preach “privately to those who were of reputation” while in Jerusalem? Who did he bring with him that might have caused a problem for these people?
* Who does he blame for the precautions he had to take while in Jerusalem? **Acts 15:1-2**
* **Galatians 2:6** – What does Paul suggest here about these people and their opinions? **Romans 3:3-4**
* **Galatians 2:7-10** – What did these critics see that led them to believe that Paul’s ministry was of God? **Acts 5:38-39** **Acts 15:6-7, 8-9, 10-11**
* Paul’s testimony about Jerusalem: **Galatians 2:11-13, 14-16** **Ephesians 2:8-10**
* **Galatians 2:17-19, 20** – Paul addresses this theme over and over again in his epistles: **Romans 6:5-6**, **7-11**
* **Galatians 2:21** – What does this mean, very simply?
1. Questions?

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Galatians Three: The Law of Faith versus the Law of Moses

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Review
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.
* Where is Galatia located?
* Who were the Judaizers who caused dissension among the Gentiles?
* Who did Paul confront to his face about his hypocrisy?
* How did Paul choose to handle the overall situation?
* Who was the leader of the church in Jerusalem?
1. What the Law Cannot Do
* **Galatians 3:1** – What does “bewitched” mean (NKJV)? What is Paul suggesting about the false teachers who have tried to bring the Gentile Galatians under the law?
* **Galatians 3:2-4** – What is Paul suggesting about the their receiving the Holy Spirit? How does one receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? **Acts 19:2**
* **Galatians 3:5-9** – Why is Abraham such a great example of living the life of faith instead of by the law of Moses?
* What does it mean that *all the nations* are blessed by Abraham?
* This example of Abraham must have been commonly used to teach grace and salvation by faith as James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, makes nearly the identical statements in his epistle: **James 2:17-18, 20-22, 23-24, 26**
* Note Galatians 3, verse 7 – How might this statement anger a Jewish person? **John 8:31-33, 37-41, 44, 47**
* **Galatians 3:10-12** – Where does that doctrinal phrase “the just shall live by faith” come from?
* Again, this is an argument James uses in **James 2:10**
* **Galatians 3:13-14** – How did Christ “redeem us from the law?” **Matthew 5:17** **Romans 6:3-8**
* **Galatians 3:15-18** – Note the main point -- if the law did not apply to Abraham because he lived 430 years prior, who else does it not apply to and why?
* **Galatians 3:19-20** – Who is the Seed? What does this term refer to? **Genesis 3:15**
* Interesting revelation: Paul says the law was appointed through who? What does that mean? Who is the mediator referred to here?
* **Galatians 3:21-22, 23-25** – the language here is nearly identical to another of Paul’s epistles. Can you name it? Can you find where this same lesson is taught in Chapter 7 or that epistle?
* **Galatians 3:26-29** – What does “put on Christ” mean? **Romans 13:13-14**
* Verse 28 is used to justify all kinds of strange ideas. Have you heard of any of these? But what is the context and, therefore, the real meaning of the verse?
1. Questions?

Note: **Habakkuk 2:4**

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Galatians Four: Free Sons and Daughters of God

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Review
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.
* Paul suggested that the Galatians church was “bewitched.” What did he mean?
* Who does Paul teach is our Old Testament example of living by faith?
* Why wasn’t Abraham under the Mosaic Law?
* Why aren’t we under the Mosaic Law?
* What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law for us?
1. Contrasting those under the Law with those under Christ
* **Galatians 4:1-2** – Can you explain his point about slaves and little children?
* **Galatians 4:3** – Now read this and explain what Paul is saying: **Romans 6:15-18**
* **Galatians 4:4-5** – What does “fullness of time” mean?
* Why do we need to be “adopted?” Isn’t God everyone’s father? **John 8:42-43**, **44-45**
* **Galatians 4:6-7** – How did we become “adopted” i.e. become Sons and Daughters of God? **John 3:3**
* **Galatians 4:8**, **9-11** – Note: What happened to the Galatian Christians that caused them to be put back into bondage and forfeit their adoption as children of God?
* Paul is afraid for them? Why?
* Can you describe how legalism might cause a person to lose their saving faith in Christ, backslide and leave their salvation?
* **Galatians 4:12** – What does Paul mean when he says “I became like you?” **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
* Note: Paul never became a sinner or engaged in sin to win people to Christ. Nor did he become a hypocritical phony. He simply tried to respectfully relate to people to win them to Christ.
* **Galatians 4:13-15** – This scripture suggests a clue to Paul’s physical infirmity; can you find it?
* **Galatians 4:16-20** -- How has Paul “become their enemy?”
* Who is Paul referring to in verse 17? Who are the “they” that is courting the Galatians? Hint: Remember our last two chapters and who was causing problems for these Gentiles.
* **Galatians 4:21-22, 23-25** – Note: Where does Paul say Mount Sinai is located? Is this true? Where exactly do people “say” Mount Sinai is [Tradition] vs. where it is actually located?
* **Galatians 4:26-27**, **28-29** – Who are the Children of Hagar? Who is the “freewoman” and who are her children?
* How did the prophecy of verse 27-29 (vs. 27 is from Isaiah 54) come true?
* How are the descendants of Hagar and Ishmael under extreme bondage to “the Law?”
* **Galatians 4:30-31** – Christ makes us free from the law.
1. Questions?

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Galatians Five: Walking in the Spirit

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Review
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.

• When Paul says in Galatians 4 that we are “adopted,” what does he mean?

* What happened to the Galatian Christians that caused them to be put back into bondage and forfeit their adoption as children of God?
* How did Paul respectfully relate to people to win them to Christ?
* Where is Mount Sinai located according to the Bible? Where do tradition and modern maps put it?
* Note: The real Mount Sinai is called today, “Jabal al Lawz.” Biblical "Sinai" and "Horeb" are generally considered to refer to the same place.
* How are many descendants of Hagar and Ishmael under extreme bondage to religious law today?
1. The Walk That Produces Godly Fruit
* **Galatians 5:1** – Explain one or all of these terms the way they are used in this verse: “stand” “free” “entangled” “yoke of bondage”
* **Galatians 5:2-3, 4** – What is circumcision? **Genesis 17:10-12**
* What were these people trying to do by getting circumcised? **Genesis 34:13-16, 24** **James 2:10**
* What does Paul mean by “fallen from grace?” **Colossians 1:21-23**
* **Galatians 5:5-6** – What does Paul say is greater than keeping the law? **1 Corinthians 13:13**
* **Galatians 5:7-10** – Where did Paul gets this idea about leaven? **Matthew 16:6**
* **Galatians 5:11-15** – How might legalism cause believers to “consume one another?”
* Note verse 13– How do Christians sometimes violate their liberty in Christ?
* **Galatians 5:16-18** – Explain
* **Galatians 5:19-21** – How does this verse accurately describe people who are “religious” but not saved?
* **Galatians 5:22-23** – How does natural tree-fruit grow? What do people do to “make fruit grow” on a tree?
* So, what would “cause” and enhance the fruits of the Spirit to grow in much the same way?
* **Galatians 5:24-26** – This is real Christianity!
1. Questions?

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Galatians Six: Godly Attitudes

Main Text: **Galatians 1:1-5**

1. Review
* Paul wrote his epistles to help guide churches that were struggling against false doctrine and various religious heresies, trends, fads and superstitions that compromised the gospel, undermined the churches or threatened the faith of believers.

• When Paul says in Galatians 5 that we are to “stand fast” in “the liberty by which Christ has made us free,” what does he mean?

* How does one “walk in the Spirit” according to Galatians 5:16?
* What do we mean by the term “fruit of the Spirit?”
* How can one “fall from grace” as Paul describes it in Galatians 5:4?
* Where is Mount Sinai located according to the Bible? Where do tradition and modern maps put it?
* What is the difference between Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai?
1. What a spiritual walk looks like
* **Galatians 6:1** – How does this advice differ from the way people under the Law tend to behave?
* **Galatians 6:2-5** – Explain how verses 2 and 5 are NOT contradictory? **Philippians 2:12-13**
* Why must we never let our “liberty in Christ” cause us to slacken our holiness and testimony? **Mark 9:42**
* We must remember what Paul’s words were to the Church in Ephesus: **Acts 20:35**
* **Galatians 6:6** – What does this mean? **1 Corinthians 9:13-14**

**Galatians 6:7-10** – Who are we supposed to treat especially well? But how do things usually go at church? **John 13:34-35 Matthew 5:23-25**

* Based on that idea, what is it that might cause a believer to “lose heart” and quit on God or their ministry? **Matthew 24:12-13**
* **Galatians 6:11-15** – This is an entire paragraph in the original text (before verses and chapters were added); Explain Paul’s entire thought here (Remember he is summarizing the entire epistle here).
* What does Paul mean in verse 15? **John 3:3**
* **Galatians 6:16-18** – Paul’s closing thought – what does he call his advice in this epistle? How does that work with his teaching concerning legalism? Apparently, churches are not supposed to be legalistic regarding salvation but they can still have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (What?) **Matthew 18:18**
1. Questions?

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