

Lesson 3 – Galatians 1, Galatians 2, and Joy

Introduction

This week's lesson will focus on the first two chapters of Galatians and some of the themes that are addressed by Paul. What did Paul mean by the gospel? How can you live out your role as a servant of Christ, rather than living to please mankind? What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? This week will also review both Galatians 1 and Galatians 2, to help you determine the purpose for these two chapters. Day 5 of the lesson will focus on the fruit of the Spirit, joy, examining what this means to the Lord and what this is to mean to Christians.

Day 1 - Galatians 1

1. You have read of Paul's concern for the situation in the region of Galatia. Bow before the Lord asking Him in **prayer** to help you with the today's lesson, and then begin with these **observation questions**.

- What does Paul say about the gospel in Galatians? If you did not mark the word gospel in some way already, please do that now and then make a list of what Paul taught about the gospel, perhaps in the margin of your Scripture Worksheet for Galatians 1.
- What was Paul's concern about the gospel?

- What did Paul say was promised to those who bring a different gospel?

- Please read what Paul wrote about the gospel to the people in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 15:1-11,22. (If you read in between verses 11 and 22 you will understand Paul's concern for the people of Corinth.) How did Paul define the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15?

- In the book of Acts, Luke recorded the incident where Peter and the apostles were told by the (Hebrew) Council not to teach in the name of Jesus. When the apostles were arrested and miraculously released, they continued to preach and told the Council, "We must obey God rather than men." Galatians 1:10 addressed an important issue for the believer. What is your standard for the way you make decisions? Is there something you would do for a person's approval that might not be pleasing to God? Think of a specific decision you made yesterday. What helped you make that decision? Did you pray asking for God's wisdom before you made the decision? Did the decision run counter to God's will because it was made in an effort to please someone else?

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2. Please examine this word study for one of the **key words** used in Galatians 1.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
2098 euangelion euangelion Galatians 1:6,7	Gospel , a good message. From # 2097 to announce good news, evangelize, especially the gospel, declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel)	1 Corinthians 15:1, (2-4,22)

3. The title of the New Testament books of *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* are each introduced with the phrase, *The Gospel According to ...* The leaders of the early church recognized the need to guard the truth that had been handed down to them, so that there would be no distortion of the gospel message. These early church fathers determined to include specific writings, and to exclude others from the canon, or rule of Scripture. They looked at the author of the writing, and whether the individual was one of the original apostles or had close apostolic association. The writings were also to be accurate in their presentation of the gospel, and both instructive and edifying to the believer. As early as 180 A.D. a list appeared of the books of the New Testament. This is now at a museum in Milan, Italy. Athanasius the great defender of the faith at the time of the Nicean Council in 325 A.D. was the first to list the exact order of the New Testament as it is known today. In an effort to protect God's truth and His church, the early church leaders closed the canon to anyone in the future who might proclaim a different gospel. Church leaders also wrote "creeds" to carefully explain Christian doctrine. Two of the early "creeds" are included in the Appendix on page 161.

You have seen Paul's concern about the gospel, now please read the apostle John's concern in 2 John 7-11. What does John say about the importance of abiding in the truth of Jesus Christ?

4. In Lesson 2 you studied Paul and his ministry, before his conversion as well as after. Acts 8 and 9 tells of the incident where Paul pleased men before his conversion. How did Paul's actions displease God?

Please read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 to see Paul's perspective on this after he surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Note a key phrase in 2 Corinthians 5:9.)

5. I was challenged this week to think about the miracle of my salvation! It was God who decided that I would be born into a home with a mother who took me to church every Sunday, so that God's word would be planted in me. As a participant in the ministry of Christian Endeavor I was blessed by the challenge to memorize Scripture. At the age of twelve I recognized my sin and asked Jesus Christ to be my Savior. I could have been born in the midst of a jungle or a vast desert and not had the blessing of my circumstances that led me to the Lord Jesus.

Continued on the next page.

Day 2 - Galatians 2

1. Today's lesson will examine Galatians 2 to investigate some of the themes in this part of Paul's epistle. The theme of circumcision will be studied in a later lesson, so hold on to any questions concerning circumcision until then, although the word studies are included in today's lesson. Open by **asking** God for His wisdom and guidance as you approach His holy word and then begin with these **observation questions**.

- Look again at the instruction that James, Cephas, and John gave to Paul and Barnabas in Galatians 2:10 and then at the instruction the Lord asked Moses to give to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 14:29 that shows God's provision for His people. How does this Old Testament teaching line up with what Paul and Barnabas were asked to do?
- How is a person justified according to Galatians 2:16?
- What did Paul say about Christ in Galatians 2:15-21?
- Paul's teaching in Galatians 2:19-21 is very significant and yet can be confusing. While Christ died a physical death, our death is not physical, but spiritual. Please read Galatians 2:19-21 several times and simply list what Paul said about **living and dying**.

Living	Dying

- Paul used the word grace seven times in Galatians. The truth is that God extends His mercy and His grace upon us moment by moment. Someone developed an acronym for grace as *God's Riches At Christ's Expense*. How would you draw a picture or diagram to symbolize this truth about grace?

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4059 peritemno peritmethenai Galatians 2:3	Circumcised , to cut around, circumcised, <i>those who were circumcised came to be known as the Jewish or Hebrew people.</i>	Galatians 5:2,3 Galatians 6:12,13
203 akrobustia akrobustias Galatians 2:7	Uncircumcised , by implication, gentile, figuratively, unregenerate state or person, not circumcised, uncircumcision. <i>Those outside of the nation of Israel.</i>	Galatians 5:6 Galatians 6:15
1344 dikaioo dikaioutai Galatians 2:16,17	Justified , to render (to show or regard as), just or innocent, free, justify (ier), be righteous	Galatians 3:8,11 Galatians 3:24
1249 diakonos diakonos Galatians 2:17	Minister , an attendant, a waiter, (at a table or other menial duties), specifically a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess), deacon, servant	1 Corinthians 3:5
4957 sustauroo sunestauromai Galatians 2:20	Crucified , to impale in company with, crucify with, <i>co-crucified. The prefix sun means with or together.</i>	Used four times in the New Testament when it does not refer to Christ's crucifixion. Galatians 5:24, 6:14
5485 charis charin Galatians 2:9,21	Grace , graciousness, (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete, literally, figuratively, or spiritual: especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy)	Galatians 5:4 Galatians 6:18

3. Romans 6:6 is one of the four verses in the New Testament where the word crucified was used where it did not refer to Christ's crucifixion. Please read Romans 6:6 in its context, which would probably be all of Romans 6, and then Colossians 3:9-14. Ask God to help you summarize what these verses say about you because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

There is more space on the next page.

4. When Christ was crucified at Calvary, the bondage of sin was broken, as Christ's holy sacrifice paid the penalty for the sin of all mankind. Christ's death on the cross set us free so that we might choose obedience and be free to live in righteousness. To identify with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection is to acknowledge our sin and our need for a Savior.

Paul said that he had been crucified with Christ. When Jesus was crucified, the thick veil in front of the Holy of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem was torn in two, showing that when God allowed His holy Son to be sacrificed, mankind became right with God and could come to God with Christ as their intercessor, because the barrier was removed that had kept man separated from the Lord God. Sometimes as humans we can allow spiritual blindness to separate us from God by denying our own sin and disobedience. There might be an area of your life where you have not yet died to yourself. How would you identify that part of you that you have held back from totally surrendering to the Lord?

Paul closed Galatians 2 with a reference to setting aside God's grace. F.F. Bruce wrote that there were two ways of "nullifying God's grace, or receiving it 'in vain': one, by receiving it and then going on as though it made no difference by continuing to live 'under law,' and the other, by receiving it and then going on as though it made no difference, by continuing to sin 'that grace may abound,' Romans 6:1."¹

Please close today in prayer, perhaps allowing the words of this song to be the message of your heart. Someone once rewrote this song to point out the struggle of the human flesh, whereby they were willing to surrender "some," but not "all." Are you willing to surrender all to the Lord? You will be blessed when you do. Dying to self means living to Jesus, trusting Him with today and tomorrow.

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live. I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

By Judson W. Wan de Venter and Winfield S. Weedon.

¹ F.F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Galatians*, Grand Rapids, Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 1982, p. 146.

Days 3 and 4 - Galatians 1 and 2 Review

1. Before the study of Galatians moves onto Galatians 3, you will spend the next two days reviewing Galatians 1 and 2. This will involve thinking back over each of these chapters to look for the main ideas or themes that were presented. What did Paul communicate to the churches in Galatia, and how did he communicate? Some people struggle with the time of review in inductive study, however when you spend the time thinking back over the chapters that have been studied, you will be blessed by remembering the main idea of each chapter, and eventually the main idea of the book. You must start by **praying**, asking God for His help and praising the Lord that He has promised that the Holy Spirit will help you.

- Please read Galatians 1 and 2 one more time looking at Paul's concern for certain individuals or groups of people. Who were these individuals and how would you *briefly* describe Paul's concern?

The people that Paul wrote about:	A summary statement describing Paul's concern for these people or individuals:

- How would you summarize Paul's attitude toward the churches in Galatia?
- Please list the **key words** in Galatians 1 and Galatians 2.

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2. As you look back at Galatians 1 and 2, notice the means of communication that Paul used. You already looked for those **declarative statements** where Paul taught doctrine as well as some sentences that taught historical narrative.

In the Appendix, on page 148, the different means of communication are explained. Paul used **declarative statements, instructions, exhortations, warnings, and admonitions** in his writing to communicate his purpose. As you go through the book of Galatians, the lessons will point out to you examples of these, to help you determine the author's purpose. Here is a description of each of these means of communication and some examples from Galatians 1 and 2 to help you determine the themes of each paragraph as well as the theme for each of the chapters. Discerning the differences is not easy, but I am trusting the Lord with how He will use this time to help you think about how Paul used these means of communication.

a. The word **exhortation** comes from the word *exhort* which was used in the New Testament to mean coming alongside of someone, reminding them of God's truth, and perhaps urging them to be obedient to the word of God. **Exhortations** might also be stated in the form of something that is promised from God. I believe that Galatians 1:3-5 are words of **exhortation**. Read these verses and if you agree, mark these verses in some way as an **exhortation**. You will see more **exhortations** as you continue in Galatians.

b. Another important means of communication from God, Christ, the prophets or apostles was the issuing of **warnings**, which were usually followed by a recompense or consequence for the sin that would follow someone's sinful attitude or actions. **Warning** statements addressed a behavior that would lead to a problem or consequence. Read Galatians 1:8,9 and see how those two verses contain two **warnings**. Mark these in some way. You will see more **warnings** as you continue in Galatians.

c. Sometimes Scripture will confront a specific behavior of the recipient or recipients that has not honored God. The Bible contains **admonitions** that call the believer to consider their lifestyle choices, recognizing that God is aware of the thoughts and actions of each of His children. I think that Galatians 1:6 is an **admonition**. Read this verse to see why I have decided that. Another example of an **admonition** is given in Galatians 2:14, although it is Paul sharing an **admonition** that he gave to Cephas. Label these **admonitions** by marking them in some way. You will see more **admonitions** as you continue in Galatians.

d. The **instructions** can be found with the help of several clues. **Instructions** were generally written as commands, where the author tells the recipient or recipients to "do something." Sometimes in a narrative passage of Scripture someone is given an **instruction**. There are no **instructions** in Galatians 1 and 2, so you will look for those in a later chapter!

3. Now is the time to reflect back on the message of Galatians 1 and 2. Look at the means of communication that you marked on your Scripture Worksheets. Most of the emphasis in the two chapters was Paul's **declarative statements**, where Paul declared doctrine and historical narrative. In the midst of this teaching he shared truths to **exhort**, word to **warn**, and **admonitions** to confront ungodly thoughts or behavior.

Using some of the **key words** written in Galatians 1 and 2, you will now consider a theme for each of the paragraphs you studied in these chapters. It might help to write out several summary statements for each section, and then try to limit your statement to no more than five words. List these statements on the chart below as well as on page 153 of the Appendix, in the sections for Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Summary Statements.

Paragraph Summary Statements of Galatians 1

Galatians 1:1-5	Galatians 1:6-10
Galatians 1:11-14	Galatians 1:15-17
Galatians 1:18-24	

Paragraph Summary Statements of Galatians 2

Galatians 2:1-5	Galatians 2:6-10
Galatians 2:11-14	Galatians 2:15-16
Galatians 2:17-21	

4. The next part of the lesson is to ask God to show you the **themes** for Galatians 1 and Galatians 2 based on the main points of each paragraph. Is there one **theme** that the separate paragraph **themes** would “fit” under? Sometimes you can take some of the **key words** from the paragraph **themes** and write those into a **theme or title** for the entire chapter. **Pray and ask** for help with this part of the lesson, and then read through these paragraph **themes** you listed to do this. Now list your **title** for Galatians 1 and Galatians 2 on the **Theme and Title Chart** in the Appendix on page 153.

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5. My prayer continues to be that these words written so long ago would be very practical in your life today. Please close by reading Psalm 130 as a prayer of gratitude to the Lord God because you have been set free and accepted as His dear child. As you read, praise His holy name!

Day 5 – The Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

1. The Westminster Catechism states that the chief end of man is to “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” One of the goals for this ministry is to glorify God and to enjoy Him (more today than yesterday). I enjoyed focusing on this study of joy. It blessed me to look at God’s perspective on this fruit of the Spirit. I love the beautiful hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” please open today’s time by singing this song as a **prayer** and then open with the following **observation questions**.

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

By Henry Van Dyke and Ludwig Van Beethoven.

- Do you remember the phrase from Nehemiah 8:10 that claims that “the joy of the Lord is my strength”? What brings God joy, and how can that bring you strength? Is this related to what brings God’s followers joy? Before you answer these questions, let me share that Psalm 37:23 has helped me understand this better. Read this verse and then relate the psalmist’s truth to Nehemiah 8:10 and the questions that were asked above.

- Paul was concerned that the Galatian people not misunderstand their salvation. How does Paul summarize the kingdom of God in Romans 14:17? Meditate on this truth in relationship to what you have learned in your study of Galatians.

- Please read Peter’s introduction to his first epistle in 1 Peter 1:1,2 to see what Peter teaches about the Holy Spirit. Please record this truth on your Holy Spirit chart in the Appendix. Notice in 1 Peter 1:1 the audience to whom Peter was writing!

2. Please examine these word studies for the **key words** used in today’s lesson.

Strong’s # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong’s Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
5479 chara chara Galatians 5:22	Joy , cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight, gladness, greatly, be (exceedingly) joy (-ful, -fully, -fullness, -ous), <i>to rejoice</i>	1 Peter 1:8
38 hagasmos hagiasmo 1 Peter 1:2	Sanctifying , purification, (the state) purity, holiness, sanctification. <i>Used of those set apart by God.</i>	2 Thessalonians 2:13

3. What did Jesus say His disciples are to do and what does Jesus say about joy in these two passages?

a. John 15:9-15

b. John 16:20-22

4. As a Christian your perspective on events in the world should be different from those who have not put their faith in Christ Jesus. Close this section by looking at three passages to see God’s perspective on joy.

a. Isaiah 51:1-3

b. Hebrews 12:2

c. James 1:2-5

5. Please close by reading the “parable of the talents,” that Jesus told in Matthew 25:14-30. As you read look for what brings joy according to Christ’s teaching.

Who do you know who manifests the fruit of the Spirit of joy? Would you take the time to affirm that person with a note or phone call to encourage them in their walk with the Lord? This would acknowledge that you have noticed their joyful attitude and that their attitude has built you up.

Continued on the next page.

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Happiness is an emotional response to what is happening, although joy to the Christian means....

Do you reflect God's joy to others? To have joy is to recognize and be grateful for the gift of our salvation and the many blessings we have in Christ. In God's word Christians are commanded to *have joy*. What keeps you from expressing the joy of the Lord to others?

Psalm 16:11 says, Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.

I shared with a friend that I see the joy of the Lord in her and she confessed that it is really hard for her to express joy in her home and she asked me to pray about that for her. If you struggle with this, ask God to help you identify the reason for the struggle. When you ask someone to hold you accountable you establish a very positive pattern for your life. When you are obedient to confess your sin to another this often breaks the hold that the pattern of disobedience has had on you.

Expressing the joy within you through smiles and laughter has proven to contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Think about this. Do you smile often? When was the last time you laughed?

The fruit of the Spirit is available to those who are "indwelt and energized by the Spirit."² Take a minute to reflect on this question, "From what source have you received your energy today?" Did it come from reading the newspaper so that you are informed about what is going on in the world? Did your energy come from reading God's holy word and spending time with Him?

Years ago someone developed an acronym for joy as follows: JOY is to order your life to put **J**esus first in all that you do, to honor and serve **O**thers, and to take care of **Y**ourself. Have you made Jesus "first" in your life? Do you honor God by serving others? Do you take care of yourself?

You might close by singing "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" from the beginning of the lesson (on page 34), as an act of worship before the Lord.

² F.F. Bruce, *Ibid.*, p. 251.