

# The Book of Galatians

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## Understanding Paul

*Galatians 1:1-2:10*

### Outline of Galatians

Understanding the Apostle Paul	<i>Galatians 1:1-2:10</i>
Justification by Faith Alone	<i>Galatians 2:11-3:14</i>
Sorting Out the Covenants	<i>Galatians 3:15-4:31</i>
Understanding the Christian Life	<i>Galatians 5:1-6:18</i>

### Who were the Galatians?

- There is the historic area of Galatia with its northeastern border on the Black Sea.
- There is the Romans province of Galatia which is extended south to include such cities as Iconium and Lystra.
- There is a biblical controversy over exactly who the Apostle Paul is writing. Is he referring to those Galatians who lived in the historic northern area or is he referring to those Galatians who lived in the southern area that was included in the Roman province?
- I favor the south Galatian theory as the most likely though neither can be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt. For a discussion of the two theories you can read, *An Introduction to the New Testament* by Carson, Moo and Morris, published by Zondervan, pages 290-293.

### When was the letter written?

In light of Peter's struggle with eating with the Gentiles in Galatians 2 it is most probable that this letter was written before the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 and therefore would put the date of its writing at about AD 48.

### What is an Apostle?

#### Big "A" Apostle

- Big "A" apostles were directly chosen by Jesus Christ. *Mark 3:13-19*
- The replacement for Judas was directly chosen by the Lord through the use practice of casting lots. *Acts 1:12-26*
- The apostle Paul was directly chosen by Jesus Christ and therefore was an apostle with a big "A". *Acts 9*

#### Small "a" apostle

- The word apostle can be used to describe a category of folks who functioned in some capacity as representatives of churches. *2 Corinthians 8:23*
- Paul was both an apostle of Jesus Christ and also a representative of the church at Antioch. Both he and Barnabas functioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> capacity, as apostles with a little "a". *Acts 13:1-3, 14:14*

### The Apostle Paul

- The first mention of Paul was under the name of Saul at the stoning of Stephen. *Acts 7:54-8:1*
- Most likely the Lord did not change Saul's name to Paul. Saul might have been his Jewish name while Paul was his Roman name, for Paul was a Roman citizen. *Acts 22:28*
- Paul was converted on the road to Damascus and his early ministry Damascus. *Acts 9:1-31*

- Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> visit to Jerusalem where he visited James. *Acts 9:26-31*
- Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to Jerusalem with Barnabas. *Acts 11:19-30*
- Paul and the Council of Jerusalem. *Acts 15*

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## Grace and Peace

*Galatians 1:3*

### Definition of Grace

- All that we have as believers is because our God for some reason decided to give it to us. Nothing regarding our standing with the Father has been earned or deserved. It is ours because He has decided to set his love upon us and make us one of his family. *Ephesians 2:8-10*
- God's choice of the nation of Israel was by grace, for there was nothing in them that would have caused Him to choose them. *Deuteronomy 7:6-8*

### Definition of Peace

- When we trust in Jesus Christ alone to save us from our sins and desire to follow him as our Lord the God of heaven and earth accepts us into his family and his relationship to us changes from that of a wrathful judge to a loving father. *Romans 5:1, Romans 5:6-11*
- The Priestly blessing of the Old Covenant describes peace with God as the ultimate blessing to be had by the Israelites. If you can get God to turn his face toward you you will get peace with God. In Old Covenant terms the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is described for us. Only Jesus Christ satisfied the wrath of the father for all those who are going to believe. *Numbers 6:22-27, Romans 3:21-26*

## Will of God

*Galatians 1:4*

### Sovereign Will

- The sovereign will is defined as God determining ahead of time everything that would happen. *Ephesians 1:11*
- Another term for the sovereign will is the secret will. We do know the sovereign will in advance, except for prophecy, which is a sneak preview into the sovereign will. *Micah 5:2*
- In a way that we do not understand fully even evil is included in the Sovereign Will of God. *Acts 4:27-28, Genesis 45:4-5, Genesis 50:19-20*
- Even though an evil act is a part of the sovereign will of God the person who does that act is the one that is responsible for it and blamed for it. *Romans 9:19*

### Moral Will

- The moral will is defined as what we are to do in God's world. Scripture is the moral will of God. *2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 5:18*
- Another term for the moral will is the revealed will. The moral will is often not done. When we do not do the moral will we sin. *1 John 3:4*

### Certainty of Knowing God's Will

- Any decision that we make that does not violate Scripture in context is in the will of God.

- God says that his will for our lives must be found. *Ephesians 5:17*
- God's will for our lives can be known in an objective fashion. *Ephesians 5:17*
- Feelings and impressions as well as the interpreting of events cannot give us any certainty.
- Scripture alone is the only authoritative guide to finding the will of God for our daily life.  
*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

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## Call of God

*Galatians 1:6*

### Audible Call

The apostle Paul was audibly called by God to be an apostle to the Gentiles. This call is not a feeling or an impression. It is God speaking to us. *Romans 1:1, Acts 9*

### Gospel Call

The invitation to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is given to all without discrimination. This is the outward call of the gospel that guarantees no results. *Romans 1:5, Matthew 22:14, Matthew 13:1-23*

### Effectual Call

- This call refers to the process by which someone becomes a believer. *Romans 1:6-7, John 6:44*
- This call is never thwarted. *Romans 8:30*
- It is the Holy Spirit who fulfills the effectual call. *John 3:1-8*

### Calling in Life

This call refers to your station in life. Its use in Scripture refers to whatever state a person finds himself in, such as being married or single. This would seem to be the origin of the concept of using calling as referring to your occupation. *1 Corinthians 7:17*

## Glory of God

*Galatians 1:5*

### Glory in the Old Covenant Era

Glory as a concept describes worth. Since their God was of ultimate worth Israel was to acknowledge his worth as they worshipped Him. *Psalms 96:8-9*

### Glory in the New Covenant Era

- In the New Covenant Era worship is understood as an on-going experience for the believer.  
*Romans 12:1*
- The believer is called on to live in such a way as to positively reflect on his God, who is of supreme worth. *1 Corinthians 10:31*

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## The Gospel

*Galatians 1:6-23*

### Understanding What Happened on the Cross

*Hebrews 10:14*

#### Jesus Purchased Salvation for the Elect

*Acts 20:28, John 10:14-18*

- When Jesus died on the cross he did not just make salvation possible, but he actually purchased the salvation of all those whom the Father chose to save. *Ephesians 1:4-5,11*
- At the appointed time the Holy Spirit applies the salvation that Jesus purchased to the individual person whom the Father chose. *John 3:5-8*

#### Jesus Purchased Payment for Sins

The death of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all the sins that a believer has committed and will commit.

*Hebrews 8:12, 10:17-18, Romans 3:21-26*

#### Jesus Purchased a Changed Life

The death of Jesus Christ purchased a work of the Spirit for all those for whom he died. This is also called a changed life, a new heart or having the law placed in your heart. *Hebrews 8:10-11, 10:16, Romans 6:14-18, Romans 8:5-9*

### Responding to the Gospel

*John 3:16*

#### Believe

- The message of the gospel is that if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he accomplished on the cross then you will be saved. *Acts 16:29-31*
- Belief is defined in the terms of repentance and faith. *Acts 20:21*

#### Repentance

- One has to be convinced that he cannot earn his way to heaven. *Galatians 3:10-14*
- One has to be convinced that he deserves to go to hell. *Romans 6:23*
- One has to desire to turn from his sinful way of life. *Acts 20:21*

#### Faith

- One has to trust in Jesus Christ alone to pay the penalty for his sins through his death on the cross in order to escape the wrath of God and be accepted into God's family. *Romans 3:21-26*
- One is saved not by works but by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.  
*Ephesians 2:2-9, Romans 3:27-31*
- One has to desire to live for Jesus Christ. *Romans 6:17-18*

### Effects of the Gospel

*Hebrews 10:14*

#### Assurance

*Romans 8:15-16*

Every believer is supernaturally convinced by the Holy Spirit that his sins are forgiven and that the holy God is his Father and he is in his family.

#### Fruit Bearing

*Romans 8:5-9, 12-14, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 10:14, Titus 2:11-12*

Every believer is an incurable God-lover and will give evidence of a changed life.

#### Perseverance

*Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:30, Hebrews 3:14*

Every believer will keep on loving Jesus Christ until he dies.

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## Paul's Confrontation with Peter

*Galatians 2:1-21*

### Paul meets James, Peter and John

*Galatians 2:1-10*

- This was Paul's second meeting with Peter in Jerusalem. *Galatians 1:13-24*
- Paul traveled to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus.
- Since the teachers who brought a false gospel came from Jerusalem Paul was concerned that his gospel would not agree with that of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem.
- Titus was not compelled to be circumcised. This showed that the church in Jerusalem did have a proper grasp of the gospel.
- It is revealed that Peter is the apostle to the Jews and Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles.
- James, Peter and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship thus giving their approval to their ministry.

### Trouble in Antioch

*Galatians 2:11-14*

#### Historical Details

- Men from James came to Antioch and told the church that Jewish believers in Jesus Christ ought not to be eating with Gentile believers in Jesus Christ.
- These men influenced Peter and Barnabas and the other Jewish believers so that they stopped eating with the Gentile believers.
- Paul publicly rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy.

### Theological Considerations

*Galatians 2:15-21*

#### Mosaic Law Tied to the Old Covenant

- The ten commandments are called the words of the covenant. *Exodus 34:28*
- The ten commandments functioned as the essence of the law of the Old Covenant. *2 Corinthians 3*
- The Old Covenant came to an end at the cross and therefore the law of that covenant came to an end at the cross. *Matthew 27:51, Ephesians 2:14-16*
- The Mosaic law was given to fulfill the demands of the Old Covenant and to prepare the way for the Messiah. *Hebrews 7:11-25, Hebrews 8:7-8*

#### Limitations of the Law

- Law requires perfect obedience. It is all or nothing.  
*James 2:10, Romans 6:23*
- A holy God's demand for acceptance is perfect obedience. *Romans 3:23*

- To go back under the Mosaic law is to go back under the Old Covenant and the requirement for perfect obedience for acceptance by God.

### **Understanding Galatians 2:20**

- A believer is a God-lover. *Romans 6:17-18*
- It is the Spirit of Christ that produces a changed life in the believer. *Romans 8:5-9*
- The believer works and gives God the credit.

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## **Work of the Spirit**

*Galatians 3:1-5*

### **Failure of the Law**

- The historical example of what the law can do is found in the Old Covenant and the law of that covenant, the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Mosaic law.  
*Hebrews 7:18-25, 8:7, Exodus 34:28, 2 Corinthians 3*
- All law is very good at pointing out what we need to do.  
*Psalms 119:1-16, 1 Corinthians 9:21, Romans 12:2*
- The law stirs up sin in an unbeliever and as a result the unbeliever sins even more.  
*Romans 5:20, Romans 7:5*
- The law is unable to change anyone and cause him to be a God-lover. *Romans 8:1-4*

### **Failure of the Old Covenant**

- The Old or First or Mosaic Covenant was never intended to save anyone. *Hebrews 8:7-8*
- The Old Covenant demanded perfect obedience or God would curse you.  
*Exodus 19:1-8, Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15*
- The Old Covenant is not the age of belief. *Hebrews 8:8*
- There has always been a remnant of true believers. *Romans 4, Romans 11:1-6*
- The age of belief comes in the New Covenant era that began at Pentecost.  
*John 7:37-39, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Acts 2:1-21*

### **Drawing is of the Spirit**

- No one truly wants to become a believer in Jesus Christ. Sin so controls an unbeliever that no unbeliever on his own will ever really desire to believe and be saved. *Romans 3:10-18, 1 Corinthians 2:14*
- If anyone is going to want to become a believer then it is God, the Holy Spirit, who will draw him to himself. Drawing is the process by which one of the elect is brought to the point of saving faith.  
*John 6:44, John 3:1-8*
- Everyone who is drawn by the Spirit will come to faith in Christ and will persevere in the faith and will go to heaven. *John 6:44, 1 Corinthians 15:2, Romans 8:30*

### **Faith is of the Spirit**

- Faith is a gift of God and is not given to everyone. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- Saving faith is given only to the elect at the appointed time. *Acts 13:48*
- Since faith was impossible for anyone to exercise on their own it had to be the Holy Spirit who enables the elect to believe. *1 Corinthians 2:14*

## **Sanctification is of the Spirit**

- Jesus purchased on the cross a work of the Spirit in the life of all those for whom he died. *Hebrews 10:14, Romans 8:5-9*
- The law in the heart is a figure of speech to describe the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer. *Hebrews 8:10-12, Ezekiel 36:24-28, John 3:5*
- It is impossible to be a real believer and not experience a changed life, which is the work of the Spirit in your life. *2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

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## **Consider Abraham**

*Galatians 3:6-9*

### **Understanding the Abrahamic Covenant**

#### **Definition**

The Abrahamic Covenant is the unveiling of God's plan of salvation which was to save a people and take them into his land. *Genesis 12:1-7, 15, 17, 22:15-18*

#### **Both Covenants**

The Abrahamic Covenant contains both the Old and the New Covenants. *Galatians 3:16*

- The Old Covenant is a picture of what God is going to do through the New Covenant. *Hebrews 8:7-8*
- In the Old Covenant God chooses a physical people, Israel, to take them into a physical land, Canaan. *Genesis 15*
- In the New Covenant God chooses to save the elect through the death of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and take them to heaven. *Ephesians 1:4-5, Galatians 3:29, Romans 9:6-21*

#### **People of the Covenant**

- The nation of Israel is to be understood as the picture of the people of God which God promises through the Abrahamic Covenant. *2 Chronicles 20:7*
- Those for whom Jesus died are to be understood the people of God who are the true fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. *Galatians 3:29, Romans 9:6-8*

#### **Sign of the Covenant**

- Abraham became a believer and he was given a sign of his belief, circumcision. *Romans 4:9-12*
- Abraham was then told to give the sign of circumcision to all the males of his household. *Genesis 17*
- Physical circumcision was the picture of regeneration that was given to the picture of the people of God while baptism is to be the sign of those who have been truly regenerated and are a part of the New Covenant. *Colossians 2:11-12, Romans 2:28-29*
- Baptism is not given to anyone until they give testimony that they have repented and believed the gospel, which is the evidence that someone is in the New Covenant. *Acts 2:38-39, Acts 20:21*
- Water baptism is to be the formal profession of faith for all those who believe in Jesus Christ.

*1 Peter 3:21*

- In the New Covenant era there is no promise that children of believers will necessarily become believers. *Acts 2:38-39, Acts 16:31-34, 1 Corinthians 1:14-16, 16:15*

### **Land of the Covenant**

- The land of Canaan was the picture of the true land of promise. *Genesis 15:12-21*
- Heaven is the true fulfillment of the promise of the land to Abraham. *Hebrews 4:1-11*

### **Salvation in the Old Testament**

- The Old Testament era, which included the Old Covenant era, was not the time for salvation. *John 7:37-39, 1 Corinthians 2:14*
- There were believers in the Old Testament and they were saved on the basis of the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Romans 4*
- It is not clear what one had to believe to be saved in the Old Testament, but all men are saved by faith.

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## **The Curse of the Law**

*Galatians 3:10-14*

### **Historical Example of Law**

#### **Definition of the Old Covenant**

The Old Covenant is a legal covenant of works that demanded perfect obedience to the law of the covenant. Failure to perfectly obey the law of the covenant would result in the curse of God.

*Exodus 19:1-8, Deuteronomy 27:1-28:45*

#### **Purpose of the Ten Commandments**

- The Ten Commandments were the essence of the law that was to be perfectly obeyed under the Old Covenant. *Exodus 34:28*
- The Ten Commandments were shorthand for the demands of the Old Covenant. *2 Corinthians 3*

#### **Results of the Old Covenant**

The Old Covenant was never given to forgive sins and produce a people that would love the true God.

*Hebrews 8:7-8*

#### **Grace and the Old Covenant**

- The Old Covenant was graciously given to the Israelites and resulted in Israel receiving physical blessings that were not given to the other nations. *Exodus 20:1-2, Romans 9:1-5*
- The gospel can be seen in types and shadows in the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant. *Hebrews 8:3-6, Hebrews 10:1-4*

### **Principle of Law**

#### **Cursing and the Law of Christ**

The law in the New Covenant era, called the law of Christ, will curse an unbeliever who does not perfectly obey it. *Romans 6:23, James 2:10*



### **Law Condemns Unbelievers**

- Any version of law has a condemning function in the life of the unbeliever. *Romans 3:23*
- Any version of law will stir up the rebellion of the unbeliever so that he will commit more sins. *Romans 7:5*

### **Law Reveals Heart of Believers**

For believers the keeping of the law is how we show our love for our God. *Psalms 119:97, 1 John 2:3-6*

### **Death of Jesus Christ**

#### **Jesus was Cursed in our Place**

When Jesus died on the cross he was offering his life as a substitute for those whom he represented. As our representative Jesus was cursed by the Father in our place. *Matthew 27:45-46, 2 Corinthians 5:21*

#### **Jesus Purchased our Salvation**

Jesus purchased a perfect payment for sins and a changed life for all those for whom he died. *Heb 10:14*

#### **Jesus Fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant**

This salvation was the true fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. *Galatians 3:29i*

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## **Understanding the Purpose of the Old Covenant**

*Galatians 3:15-25*

### **Understanding a Covenant**

#### **Definition**

**cov·e·nant** *n.* 1. A binding agreement; a compact. (*American Heritage Dictionary*)

#### **Biblical Covenants**

- **Noahic Covenant**  
God commits to all creation that he will never again destroy the world until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ. *Genesis 9*
- **Abrahamic Covenant**  
God promises to Abraham that he will give him descendants and take them into his land. *Genesis 12:1-7, Genesis 15, Genesis 17*
- **Old Covenant**  
The Old Covenant was a works agreement that God established with the people of Israel. He promised to make them a nation of priests and give them the land of Canaan if they would keep the terms of the covenant. *Exodus 19:1-8, Deuteronomy 27-28, Hebrews 8:7*
- **New Covenant**  
The New Covenant is giving of the Son of God to be the redeemer of those whom the Father had chosen to save. Everyone who was represented by Jesus Christ on the cross will experience repentance and faith. They will receive the forgiveness of all their sins and they will receive a work of the Spirit.

### **Abrahamic Covenant**

- In the Abrahamic Covenant is the unveiling of God's promise to have a people and to take them into his land.
- The Abrahamic Covenant contains both the Old and the New Covenants. The Old Covenant will illustrate through an unbelieving people and a literal land what Jesus Christ will accomplish on the cross, the purchase of a believing people and the promise to take them into his land, heaven.  
*Genesis 15, Galatians 3:16, 29*
- The true seed of Abraham is not the physical descendants of Abraham but those for whom Jesus died.  
*Romans 9:6-8*

### **Understanding the Old Covenant**

#### **Covenant of Works**

- The Old Covenant demanded perfect obedience in order for it to be fulfilled. *2 Corinthians 3*
- The Old Covenant was never given as a way of salvation. *Romans 5:18, Hebrews 8:7*

#### **Covenant of Preparation**

- The Old Covenant illustrated what the New Covenant was going to accomplish.
- The Old Covenant increased sin and showed the futility of trying to gain acceptance by a holy God on the basis of works. *Romans 9:30-10:4*
- The Old Covenant never provided forgiveness of sins. *Hebrews 10:1-10*
- The Old Covenant era was not the era for salvation. It was an historical teaching tool that prepared the way for the age of belief, the New Covenant era.

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## **New Covenant Era Distinctives**

*Galatians 3:26-29*

### **Baptism = Identification**

*Galatians 3:26-27*

#### **Definition**

Water baptism is the outward picture that one has repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus Christ alone to save him from his sins and desires to follow Jesus as the Lord of his life. *Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 2:11-12*

#### **Identification**

The fundamental meaning of baptism is identification. The believer is viewing himself through the person of Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 10:2*

#### **Profession of Faith**

- Water baptism is the believer's formal profession of faith. It is the way the believers shows his heavenly father that he has become a believer in Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 3:21*
- It is not necessary for the ceremony of water baptism to be done before the local church. *Acts 16:31-34*

## **Spirit Baptism**

The baptism of the Spirit is a phrase used to describe someone becoming a believer.

*Matthew 3:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:13*

## **New Covenant People of God**

*Galatians 3:28*

### **An Old Covenant Look**

- Only those of the nation of Israel were a part of the Old Covenant people of God. *Exodus 19:3-6*
- Gentiles could enter into the Old Covenant people of God only by becoming a part of the nation of Israel. *Exodus 12:48-49*
- The law of the Old Covenant era would not allow for a people of God to be made of both Israelites and Gentiles without any Jewish distinctives. *Ephesians 2:14-18*

### **A New Covenant Look**

- In the New Covenant era, post-Pentecost, the people of God are made up of all those who are believers in Jesus Christ.
- In the New Covenant era the people of God are viewed as a spiritual Israel. *Hebrews 8:7-13, 1 Peter 2:9*

## **Children of Abraham**

*Galatians 3:29*

### **Physical Children**

The Israelites are the real physical descendants of Abraham. *Romans 9:6-8*

### **Spiritual Children**

- Believers in Jesus Christ are the true children of Abraham.
- Believers in Jesus Christ are the true heirs to the promises made to Abraham.

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## **Slaves and Sons**

*Galatians 4:1-8*

### **Slave-Son Relationship**

The apostle Paul describes the relationship between a member of the people of God in the Old Covenant era, whom he describes as slaves, with members of the people of God in the New Covenant era, whom he describes as sons. This is an explanation of his statement in *Galatians 3:26-29* in which he is making a radical distinction between the type of people produced by the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

### **Old Covenant Era = Slaves**

- Unbelieving picture of the people of God. *Hebrews 8:7-8*
- Inferior status of the people of God in the Old Covenant era.
- The slave description seems to be used to describe the Old Covenant people of God as not the real people of God.

- To be under slavery is to be under bondage. The Old Covenant is a legal or works covenant that can only produce people who are under the wrath of God.

### **New Covenant Era = Sons**

- Only the New Covenant produces true believers who have their sins forgiven and have a new heart. *Hebrews 10:14-18*
- Everyone is born under law. We are all guilty of breaking the commandments given to Adam in the garden. Depending on when we lived we would be guilty of breaking either the Old Covenant version of the law (Mosaic Law) or the New Covenant version of the law (Law of Christ). *Romans 5:18, Romans 6:23*
- The members of the New Covenant are true sons and are therefore describes being members of God's family. True saving faith brings with it assurance of salvation which is a supernatural convincing of the believer by the Holy Spirit that his sins are forgiven and God is no longer his angry judge but his loving father. True saving faith brings with it not a temporary inheritance as the Israelites realized in the promised land but an eternal inheritance in heaven that can never be taken away. *Romans 8:12-17, Hebrews 4:1-13*

## **Weak and Miserable Principles**

*Galatians 4:8-11*

### **Salvation = Knowing God**

- Salvation is described as having a personal relationship with the living God. *John 17:3*
- To be an unbeliever is not to be "known by God." This refers not to his knowing about us but his knowing believers in a saving way. *Matthew 7:21-23*

### **Weak and Miserable Principles**

- The law of the Old Covenant has no power to save and transform. *Hebrews 7:18-25*
- The law of the Old Covenant is uniquely suited to reveal sin. *Romans 7:7-12*
- The law of the Old Covenant brings about greater sin in the lives of those who are members of the nation of Israel, the Old Covenant people of God. *Romans 7:5*
- The law of the Old Covenant is not to be turned to for it has come to an end at the cross. *Col 2:16-17*

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## **Thorn in the Flesh?**

*Galatians 4:12-16*

### **What is it?**

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

- Scripture does not tell us explicitly what was Paul's thorn in the flesh.
- Scripture does tell us that Paul has some sort of eye problem that may have been the thorn in the flesh that is described in *2 Corinthians 12*.

- The statement in *Galatians 6:11* referring to Paul writing with large letters might be another clue to identifying his thorn in the flesh.

### Paul's Appeal to the Galatians

In light of how the Galatians received him with his illness and how they would have anything for him to relieve his physical distress Paul appeals to the Galatians that to become like him in his understanding of the gospel and reject the message and gospel of those who came from Jerusalem.

## Beware of False Teachers

*Galatians 4:17-20*

### Understanding Biblical Zeal

- Enthusiasm that is not based on Scripture is not from the Lord. *1 Corinthians 10:31, Matthew 7:21-23*
- Every idea must be examined in light of Scripture to see if it is worth pursuing. *Romans 12:2*

### Understanding False Teachers

- A false teacher is someone who is not a believer and is trying to get the believer to follow his agenda. *Matthew 7:15-20, 2 Peter 2:1-3*
- False teachers seek to drive a wedge between believers and sound teaching.
- Believers are warned to identify and turn from these type of teachers. *2 John 7-11*

## Hagar and Sarah

*Galatians 4:21-31*

### Definition of an Allegory

**al·le·go·ry** ( ˈælˌləˌɡɔːri ) *n. pl. al·le·go·ries* **1. a.** A literary, dramatic, or pictorial device in which characters and events stand for abstract ideas, principles, or forces, so that the literal sense has or suggests a parallel, deeper symbolic sense. **b.** A story, picture, or play in which this device is used. John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* are allegories.

### Meaning of the Allegory

- Hagar represents the Old Covenant and Sarah represents the New Covenant.
- *Isaiah 54:1* is quoted to teach that even though Israel has not believed there will come a time when she will bring forth many believers. This is fulfilled under the New Covenant through the death of Jesus Christ and the believing people of God are made up of both Jews and Gentles and are the spiritual Israel of God. *Hebrews 10:11-18, Hebrews 8:7-13, Ephesians 2:14-16, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Galatians 3:29*
- The Old Covenant is no more and the law of that covenant is also null and void, as a unit. Each version of law is uniquely suited to its particular covenant.

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## The Freedom of the New Covenant

*Galatians 5:1-15*

## No Longer a Slave to Sin

*Galatians 5:1*

### Slavery to Sin

- As a result of Adam's sin everyone comes into the world self-centered and a God-hater.  
*Romans 3:10-18, Romans 1:30*
- Everyone is naturally so controlled by sin that no one will ever want to come to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord unless the Holy Spirit draws them to himself and gives them the gift of faith. Scripture describes this state of man as slavery to sin.  
*Romans 6:17-18, Romans 7:4-6, Romans 7:23, Romans 8:1-4*

### Historical Example of Slavery to Sin

- Israel under the old covenant era is always viewed as unbelieving. *Hebrews 8:7-13*
- The law of the old covenant, the mosaic law, put the Israelites in perpetual bondage to their sin.  
*Galatians 3:23-25*
- Therefore the old covenant era served as a historical examples of how unbelievers are in a hopeless situation are slaves to sin.

### Freedom in Jesus Christ

*Hebrews 10:14, Romans 8:1-4*

- Believers are freed from the demands of the law by the imputation of the payment for sins that Jesus purchased by his death on the cross.
- Believers are freed from the control of sin by the death of Jesus Christ.

### Implications of Circumcision

*Galatians 5:2-6*

- Circumcision is required by the mosaic law. *Leviticus 12:1-5*
- Circumcision as a part of the mosaic law is also a part of the old covenant, which is a covenant of works.  
*Galatians 5:3*
- Timothy was circumcised to reach out to the Jews yet Titus was not circumcised since it would compromise the gospel. *Acts 16:1-3, Galatians 2:1-5*

### Getting the Gospel Partly Right

*Galatians 5:7-12*

- Believing in Jesus plus the addition of any type of works results in salvation by works. *Galatians 1:6-10*
- Belief in Jesus that disregards Lordship is not saving belief at all. *1 John 2:3-6, John 1:12*

### Summing Up the Law

*Galatians 5:13-15*

- In salvation responsibility is affirmed and is the evidence that we have salvation.  
*James 2:14-26, Philippians 2:12-13*
- To be a believer is to love. *1 John 4:19-21*

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# The Work of the Spirit and the Christian Life

*Galatians 5:16-26*

## Living by the Spirit

*Galatians 5:16-18,24*

### Defining Living by the Spirit

- The role of the Holy Spirit, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity, is to bring the elect to a saving faith and to cause him to become more and more Christ-like. *John 3:8, John 16:12-15, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18*
- To live by the Spirit is to do what the Spirit wants you to do. Since the role of the Spirit is to cause you to live for Jesus Christ we can describe living by the Spirit as living for Jesus Christ.  
*Ephesians 5:18, Colossians 3:16*
- Another way that you could describe living by the Spirit is to obey God's word. *Romans 12:2*

### Believer's Struggle with Sin

- *Romans 7* does not describe the believer's struggle with the remaining evil in his life. *Romans 7* describes what the law can and cannot do in the life of an unbeliever.
- The key verses in understanding *Romans 7* are *Romans 7:23* and *Romans 8:2*.
- *Romans 8:3-4* describe the relationship between chapter 7 and chapter 8.
- This side of heaven the believer will always struggle with sin until he dies.
- There will never be a time when the believer will rise above his struggle with sin.

### Defining being Led by the Spirit

- The parallel passage of *Galatians 5:18* is *Romans 8:14*.
- Every believer is controlled by the Spirit, which means that he cannot miss the changed life that Jesus purchased for him on the cross. *Romans 8:1-9*
- Every believer will persevere in the faith, or keep loving Jesus Christ until he dies, because he is being led by the Spirit into a changed life, which Jesus purchased for him.
- The historical example of "being under law" is Israel under the Old Covenant. They, as an unbelieving people, were given the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Mosaic Law, and this resulted in the stirring up of their rebellion which resulted in the increase of their sin.  
*Romans 5:20, Romans 7:5*
- The principle of law with the unbeliever works the same in all ages.

### Acts of the Flesh

*Galatians 5:19-21*

- Because we are made in the image of God the believer does not have to be convinced of what is an ungodly lifestyle. *Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:28-32*
- It is not possible to have an ungodly way of life and enter heaven.  
*1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 John 3:9-10*

### Fruit of the Spirit

*Galatians 5:22-23*

The Holy Spirit will produce a changed life in the believer and he will become Christ-like. *2 Cor 3:18*

### Affirming Our Responsibility

*Galatians 5:25-26*

Believers are always responsible to live for Jesus Christ. *Philippians 2:12-13, Romans 6:11-13*

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## Implications of the New Heart

*Galatians 6:1-10*

### You are Your Brother's Keeper

*Galatians 6:1*

- Believers are commanded to make biblical judgments toward other believers. *Matthew 7:1-5, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13*
- How we confront is just as important as doing the confronting. *1 Corinthians 10:31*
- One must always be on guard against falling into sin. *Ephesians 6:10-18*
- The initial confrontation is the initial step in the process of church discipline. *Matthew 18:15-17*

### Other Person Centered

*Galatians 6:2*

- The Law of Christ is made up of all those laws that apply to folks who live in the New Covenant era. *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*
- Loving one another is the essence of what is required under the law of Christ. *Matthew 22:34-40*
- The evidence of a new heart is our love for one another. *1 John 4:19-21*

### Coram Deo

*Galatians 6: 3-5*

- Humility is an honest evaluation of ourselves as we live before our Father in heaven. *1 Peter 5:5*
- Believers are warned not to compare themselves with other believers. *2 Corinthians 10:12*
- Saving faith always brings with it responsibility and no one else can fulfill those responsibilities. *2 Corinthians 5:10*

### Understanding Our Obligations

*Galatians 6:6*

- Believers are obligated to share with those from whom they have received instruction. Specifics are not mentioned, but the principle is rather clear. *1 Corinthians 9:3-12, 1 Timothy 5:17-18*
- The example of the Apostle Paul is that he only sometimes accepted support from other believers. *1 Corinthians 9:7-18*

### You Get What You Pay For

*Galatians 6:7-8*

- The context of this is not regarding the use of our finances.
- The believer is to commit his life to live for the king. Caring for one another in a radical fashion is an example of investing our lives' for the king. *Romans 12:2*
- Believers always receive back more than they give. This is a quality of life issue that is always true. *Mark 10:28-31, Philippians 4:10-13*

### Do Not Give Up

*Galatians 6:9*

- The believer must not forget why he is doing what he is doing. *1 Corinthians 10:31*
- The motivation for a believer must be his love for Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 5:14, 1 Peter 1:8*
- Perseverance will gain for us eternal life. *Revelation 2:7,11*



**Priorities of Love**

*Galatians 6:9-10*

Caring for other believers is always the priority of the believer when it comes to loving one another.