



Galatians

The Gospel of Grace

An Overview to the Book of Galatians





-Whenever starting a new book, it's important to do a flyover of the entire book. We need to see the context of the whole book before we look at the individual parts.

-Now I'm going to use Roy to illustrate how easy it is to misinterpret scripture by ignoring the context.

-It is more Biblical to wear both a belt and suspenders than just one or the other.

Take a look at Ecclesiastes 4:9:

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow:

but woe to him that is alone when he falleth;

for he hath not another to help him up.”



-You can make the Bible say anything you want by ignoring the context!

-The Best way to start this flyover is with a simple outline:

The Epistle to the Galatians

The Introduction 1:1-10

- I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship** Chapters 1&2
- II. Paul Defends Justification By Faith Alone** Chapters 3&4
- III. Paul's Call to Liberty** Chapters 5&6

The Conclusion 6:11-18

We'll start with the **Introduction 1:1-10**



The Epistle to the Galatians

The Introduction 1:1-10

A. Paul's Greeting

B. Paul's Warnings Against a Different Gospel

- I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2
- II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4
- III. Paul's Call to Liberty chapters 5&6

The Conclusion 6:11-18



The Introduction 1:1-10

-Paul introduces the Epistle like many of his other Epistles except for the phrase:

Gal 1:1 “not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead.”

-Paul is amazed that the Galatians have left Christ for a different gospel, Which is not a gospel at all. Gal 1:6

Gal 1:7 “. . . only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.”

-Let such a one be ‘accursed’ – Paul repeats this twice!

Gal 1:9 “he is to be accursed”

Next - I. Paul’s Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2



The Epistle to the Galatians

The Introduction 1:1-10

I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2

A. His Personal Testimony

B. His Early Ministry

C. The Council at Jerusalem

D. His Encounter with Peter

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4

III. Paul's Call to Liberty chapters 5&6

The Conclusion 6:11-18



I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2

-Paul spends the next 35 verses defending his apostleship.

-He speaks of his life before Damascus, and how God set him apart from his mother's womb to take the gospel to the gentiles. Gal 1:13-15

-He received this information directly from Christ in the Arabian Desert near Damascus.

Gal 1:15-17 "I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but went away to Arabia and returned once more to Damascus."

-It wasn't until three years after his conversion that he finally met with two of the apostles, Peter and James in Jerusalem. Gal 1:18-23



-Because of Paul's past reputation, the believers in Jerusalem feared him, and for his safety Barnabas sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 9:26-30 "When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple".

Gal 1:21 "Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia."

-Now 14 years later, after the first missionary journey Paul, Barnabas, and Titus go up to Jerusalem to solidify his apostleship to the Gentiles. This may have coincided with the Council at Jerusalem. Gal2:1-10

Gal 2:2 "It was because of a revelation that I went up: and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles."



-Some time after this Paul met with Peter in Antioch and had to straighten him out on few issues.

Gal 2:14 “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

-Paul spends the rest of chapter two explaining to Peter what “justified by faith in Christ” is all about.

Gal 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

-Now we come to the Doctrinal sections in Galatians.

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4



The Epistle to the Galatians

The Introduction 1:1-10

I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4

A. The Galatians Personal Experience

B. The Abrahamic Covenant and the Law

C. The Purpose of the Law

D. Freedom vs Bondage

E. Paul's Personal Appeal to the Galatians

F. Sarah and Hagar – An Allegory

III. Paul's Call to Liberty chapters 5&6

The Conclusion 6:11-18



II. Paul Defends 'Justification by Faith' Alone. Chapters 3&4

-Paul starts by uses a personal argument in defending Justification by Faith. 3:1-5

-Did you receive the gospel by the works of the Law, or by faith?

Gal 3:2,3 “This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit [*the gospel*] by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

-Now that you're saved, are you growing and maturing by the Law or by faith?

Gal 3:5 “So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit [*the gospel*] and works miracles among you, do it by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”



-Paul now moves on to compare Abraham and the Mosaic Law.
Gal 3:6-18

-It was faith that justified Abraham and not the Law.

Genesis 15:6 “Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

-Even the Old Testament foresaw “that God would justify the Gentiles by faith” Gal 3:8

Genesis 12:3 “And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

-Righteousness by Faith, and not the Law, has been God’s plan throughout all history; from Adam on!



-The Law is actually a Curse.

Gal 3:13,14 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit [*the gospel*] through faith.’”

-God promised this to Abraham and his seed, Christ. The Law which came 430 years later did not nullify that promise. Gal 3:17

-Why then do we have the Law? Gal 3:19-25

Gal 3:19 “It was added because of transgressions . . . until the seed [*Christ*] to whom the promise had been made.”



-The Law was not contrary to God's promise, but a tutor to bring us to Christ.

Gal 3:21 "Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be!"

Gal 3:25 "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

-Paul now moves on to who we are 'In Christ'. Gal 3:26-4:11

-Through faith we are all "sons of God" and "baptized into Christ".

Gal 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Gal 3:29 "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."



-With the coming of Christ, we are no longer under that tutor, a slave to the Law, but adult sons.

Gal 4:4,5 “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

-So why do you turn back to the Law and enslave yourself again?

-Gal 4:9 “But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?”

-Paul now gets very personal; When I was with you, had I “labored over you in vain”? Gal 4:11

Gal 4:20 “But I could wish to be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.”



-In verses 12-20 he relates how great a relationship he had with them when he was with them.

-Now that Paul is no longer with them, they have gone back to the enslavement of the Law.

-Paul now uses Sarah and Hagar and their sons as an allegory to describe the relationship between slavery to the Law and the freedom that we have in Christ. Gal 4:21-31

Gal 4:30 “But what does the scripture say? ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son *[the Law]*, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman *[Grace]*”.

-Now on to applying these truths in chapters 5&6

III. Paul’s Call to Liberty chapters 5&6



The Epistle to the Galatians

The Introduction 1:1-10

I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4

III. Paul's Call to Liberty chapters 5&6

A. The Freedom We Have in Christ

B. The Law of Love

C. Walking in the Holy Spirit

D. Our Responsibility to One Another

The Conclusion 6:11-18



III. Paul's Call to Liberty Chapters 5&6

-Now in chapters 5 and 6 we move from salvation apart from the Law to our Christian walk apart from the Law.

Gal 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

-As believers today we may not be concerned with circumcision or the Mosaic Law, but what about all the other things that put us under a yoke of slavery?

Gal 5:5 "For we through the Holy Spirit, by **faith**, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."

Gal 5:6 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love.**"



-This liberty that we have, through faith, is manifested in two different ways:

1. The Law of Love which replaces the Mosaic Law. 5:13-15

Gal 5:13,14 “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’”.

2. Walking by means of the Holy Spirit as opposed to walking in the flesh. Gal 5:16-26

Gal 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Gal 5:18 “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”



-Paul goes on to list the deeds of the flesh (the Law), and the fruit of the Spirit (against such things there is no Law).

-In chapter 6 we see our responsibility to one another considering what the Judaizers are doing to them.

-The Judaizers in Galatia were like the Pharisees. They never brought people together. They only brought division.

Gal 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the Law of Christ.”

Gal 6:10 “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

-This can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit and not the flesh. Gal 6:1-10

Now the conclusion of the Epistle



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- I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2
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The Conclusion 6:11-18

- A. Authentication of the Epistle**
- B. Final Warning to the Galatians**
- C. Paul's Confidence in The Cross**



The Conclusion 6:11-18

Gal 6:11 “See what large letters that I am writing to you with my own hand.”

-Paul either had poor eyesight or he was emphasizing his message with large, bold letters.

-Some believe he had damaged his eyes as a result of malaria on his 1st missionary journey.

Gal 4:13-15 “But you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time . . . if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.”

-He once again warns his readers of putting themselves under that yoke of bondage, the Law.



Gal 6:12-16 “Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creation**. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren.
Amen Gal 6:18**



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