

Calvary Chapel Women's Study

Lesson 1

Galatians 1

Intro

The Good News of salvation through faith in Christ is the most important message in the world. This message had changed Paul's life and, through him, the lives of others. But now this message was being attacked, and Paul was out to defend the truth of the Gospel. Some false teachers had invaded the churches of Galatia—churches Paul had founded—and were teaching a different message from that which Paul had taught. As you begin to read Paul's letter to the Galatian Christians, you can tell immediately that something is radically wrong, because he does not open his letter with his usual praise to God and prayer for the saints. He has no time! Paul is about to engage in a battle for the truth of the Gospel and the liberty of the Christian life. False teachers are spreading a false "gospel" which is a mixture of Law and grace, and Paul is not going to stand by and do nothing.

(Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe)

Read Galatians 1:1-24

Galatians 1:1-24 has been divided into four paragraph divisions. Write a title for each section.

- Gal 1:1-5
- Gal 1:6-10
- Gal 1:11-17
- Gal 1:18-24

Read Galatians 1:1-5

1. What title does Paul use to identify himself in this letter?
 - a. Define the word apostle.

 - b. Where or from whom does he claim to have received this title? (verse 1b)

For Discussion

- A. What has the Lord called you to, personally?
 - How has He equipped you for this calling?

 - What are some things you have learned as you have responded to this calling?
2. Galatia is not a city, but is a region comprised of many cities and many churches. Paul was in southern Galatia on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13-14:23). Record one thing that happened during his first missionary journey.
3. Record the greeting Paul wrote in Galatians 1:3.
 - a. Define the word grace.

 - b. Define the word peace.

4. Grace and peace are ours only because of Jesus. According to verse 4, what did He do for us?
 - a. Consider the phrase "*gave Himself*." The word gave could be easily passed over. What does Jesus say about giving Himself? John 10:18 b.
 - b. Read the last two phrases of verse 4. Why did Jesus give Himself?
5. From the beginning of this letter Paul established who should receive all the credit. What does it mean to you when you say —To God be the glory?

For Discussion

- B. How can we give glory to God with our lives? Keep your specific calling in mind; for example as a mother, grandmother, daughter, wife, employee or employer.
- C. The word deliver denotes not deliverance out of something but from the power of this evil world. What do the following verses teach us about this?
 - John 15:19
 - John 17:15
 - Ephesians 2:2
- D. Briefly describe the deliverance you have experienced since you became a believer.

Read Galatians 1:6-9

1. How many times does Paul use the word gospel?
 - a. According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, what is the gospel?

2. Paul's reaction to the news from Galatia caused him to marvel. What are some synonyms for the word marvel?
 - a. At what specific news did Paul marvel?

3. Read Jeremiah 2:12-13. In what way is another gospel like a broken cistern?
Note: A cistern is a well-used to hold water.

4. Galatians 1:7a, in the NIV, has been translated, *which is really no gospel at all*. The Judaizers were insisting upon the following of Jewish traditions and law as essential to salvation. Why is that not a gospel (good news of salvation)?

5. Christians need to beware of those who come and preach any other gospel... than what they have received. How will the following verses help us to stay true to the gospel of Christ?
 - Romans 3:24,28

 - Ephesians 2:8,9

Read Galatians 1:11-17

1. At this point Paul begins to relate a portion of his personal life. In Galatians 1:13-14 he depicts his past before he met Christ. He recognizes they have heard of his former conduct, and they knew it was based on Judaism. Write Paul's somber admission as recorded in Galatians 1:13b.
 - a. How do the following verses describe Paul's actions toward the church?
 - Acts 8:3

 - Acts 9:1,2

 - Acts 22:4,5

 - Acts 22:19,20

 - Acts 26:9-11
2. Reflect on the gravity of Paul's words: I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. Galatians 1:13b Share your thoughts.
3. Describe Paul's conversion as recorded in Acts 9:1-9.

The World

Galatians 1:4

“Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

We spend a lot of time, effort, and energy seeking to determine the will of God for our lives. Right now, many of us are facing circumstances where we are not exactly sure what God wants us to do. Should I go ahead with Plan A or is it time to implement Plan B? Should I take the new job, or wait this one out a little longer? Should we let the kids do this, or is it best to wait till they are a little older? Needless to say, we are plagued with questions that we need the will of God to answer. While this text does not address those questions specifically, it does give us some keen insight into the will of God for our lives. Paul associates the will of God to the giving of His Son and delivering us from evil.

The Bible has much to say regarding God’s relationship to the world. We are told, because of sin, the inhabitants of the world live separated from God and will die separated from Him. We also read the love of God moved Him to send His Son to redeem us from the curse of sin, making it possible for us to have eternal life. As we walk through the Gospel stories, we find that Jesus was the friend of sinners. It’s common to find Him talking, walking and eating with sinners in order to draw them out of sin and into relationship with God. We can conclude, whatever the will of God is for our lives right now, it is wrapped up in a desire to use us to declare the Gospel message to the lost. Your current circumstances are divinely ordained to reach others for the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Bible also has much to say about our relationship with the world. This verse reminds us, it’s the will of God that we be delivered from this present evil age. The word delivered means to be rescued. Jesus died to set us free from sin. It’s always sad when we see a brother or sister in Christ entangled in sin. Paul had a friend named Demas, who once served Christ along-side him, but later left because he fell in love with the world again. Sadly, Demas is not an isolated case. Many, who begin to follow Christ, stumble along the way getting tangled up in sin. Paul reminds us that it is the will of God for us to be set free from sin. Sometimes, we are drawn away from the Lord because of perspective. We look at sin as something harmless and enjoyable, while God declares that it is evil. Rather than looking at sin the way it’s portrayed on the TV screen, we should look at it as it’s described in the Word of God.

As you seek to determine what God wants you to do today, remember that He loves the world and hates sin. He desires to keep you from sin and use you to lead others to Christ.

Pastor Jim