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Monday Night Bible Study

May 2021

**Galatians 1**

Galatians is likely the first New Testament book to be written, composed sometime soon after AD 49.

Galatians was written because the churches of that region were facing a theological crisis. The essential truth of justification by faith rather than by human works was being denied by the Judaizers—legalistic Jews who insisted that Christians must keep the Mosaic Law. In particular, the Judaizers insisted on circumcision as a requirement for Gentiles who wished to be saved. In other words, convert to Judaism *first*, and then you are eligible to become a Christian. When Paul learned that this heresy was being taught to the Galatian churches, he composed an epistle to emphasize our liberty in Christ and to counter the perversion of the gospel that the Judaizers promoted

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The Book of Galatians reminds the Church to embrace and follow the gospel message of the crucified Messiah. The requirement for non-Jewish Christians to become Torah observers and be circumcised or eat kosher misses the point. Jesus alone fulfills the laws of Torah and justifies believers. Galatians stands as an apologetic (a defense) for the essential New Testament truth that people are justified by faith in Jesus Christ -- by nothing less and nothing more -- and that they are sanctified (set apart to God) not by legalistic works but by the obedience that comes from faith in God's work, in them and through them by the grace and power of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

# **A multi-ethnic family:** When people trust in Jesus as Messiah and put their faith in Him, His life, death, and resurrection become theirs. They are part of new creation, free from the requirement to follow the laws of Torah (Old Testament Law). They now join a new multi-ethnic covenant family of Jesus, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham. Because of Jesus and the Spirit, believers learn to love God and others.

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# **God’s covenant faithfulness to His people:**

**Exodus 34:4-7a** - So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. **5**Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. **6**And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, **7**maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness (Greek: *NASA*), rebellion and sin.

# **Ezekiel 36:24-28** - “‘For **I will** take you out of the nations; **I will** gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. **25I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will** cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. **26I will** give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you**; I will** remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27**And **I will** put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **28**Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

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**GALATIANS 1**

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— **2**and all the brothers and sisterswith me,

To the churches in Galatia: **3**Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4**who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5**to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 John 2:2** - My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2**He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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**6**I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you (God, the Father) to live in the grace (unmerited favor, kindness) of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— **7**which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. **8**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse (Greek: Anathema)! **9**As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!

**Ephesians 2:6-10** - And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7**in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**9**not by works, so that no one can boast. **10**For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Grace & good works:** Which comes first?

“Good works are not the ingredients of our faith, but they are evidence of our faith.” Faith and grace come first, THEN good works follow. Good works WILL follow grace and faith.

**Paralyzed Man healed by Jesus:**

**Mark 2:1-5** - A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2**They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3**Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4**Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5**When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

**Psalm 23:1-3** - The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the righteous paths for **his name’s sake**.

**Matthew 25** – Serving others, serving Jesus. Grace took root in their hearts. (Hebrews 13:9 – It is good that our hearts be established by grace)

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**10**Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

**Philippians 2:12-13** - Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**13**for it is God who works in you to will and to act ***in order to fulfill his good purpose***.

**Colossians 3:23** - We work to please God and not to please man.

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**11**I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. **12**I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Acts 9 – Paul made his way to Damascus and saw a vision of Christ, blinded by His light.

**13**For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. **14**I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

**Acts 7 – The stoning of Stephen.**

**Acts 22:19 -** **19**“‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. **20**And when the blood of your martyrStephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

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**15**But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased **16**to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. **17**I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

**18**Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. **19**I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. **20**I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

**21**Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. **22**I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. **23**They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” **24**And they praised God because of me.

1. Only Grace saves us.
2. The Law convicts the best of us, but Grace saves the worst of us.
3. There is NO other Gospel.

**Acts 15:5-11** - Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.” The apostles and elders met to consider this question. **7**After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. **8**God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. **9**He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **10**Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? **11No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”**

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