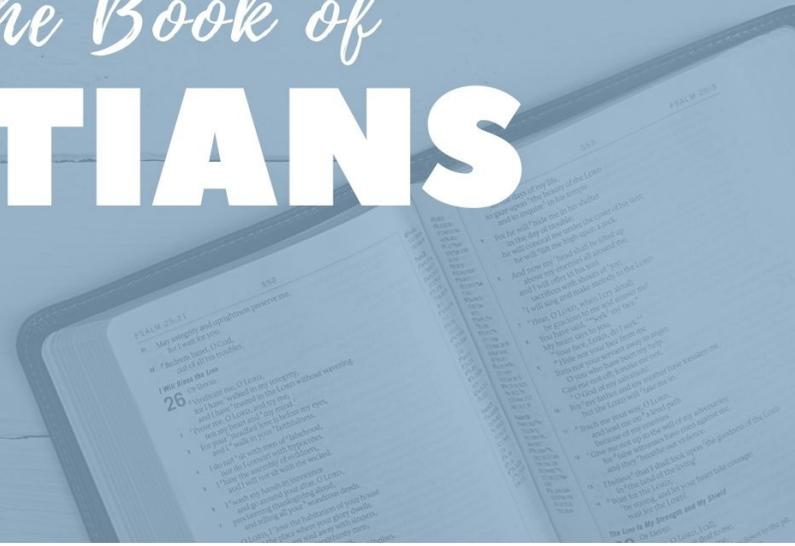


*Through the Book of*  
**GALATIANS**



**Overview:**

A 6-week study on the Apostle Paul's first letter, where we learn the timeless lesson that the Christian life starts and ends with grace.

**Lessons:**

1. Have You Fallen For a Different "Gospel"?
2. Do You Buy In To Radical Grace?
3. The Promise You Might Have Missed
4. Man-Made vs. God-made Religion
5. True Freedom & the Sweet Spot of Grace
6. Real Faith is About Transformation



# HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR A DIFFERENT GOSPEL?

Find discipleship resources at [pursueGOD.org/galatians](https://pursueGOD.org/galatians)

*If the early Christians could fall for a fake gospel, we can too. There's something in every one of us that tries to earn our way to God.*

- On his first missionary journey, \_\_\_\_\_ traveled through the region of Galatia to share the \_\_\_\_\_ and plant churches. Acts 13:14,43
- A group of \_\_\_\_\_ believers infiltrated the Galatian churches to bring a \_\_\_\_\_ message.
- Paul wrote Galatians in response to the false “\_\_\_\_\_” of the Judaizers. Galatians 1:6-8, Romans 3:22

## **DISCUSSION:**

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1. *Have you ever been on a missions trip? If you have, share about it and how it impacted you.*
2. *Read Acts 13:14,43. Why do you think Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue instead of somewhere else? Why did they emphasize grace in their teachings?*
3. *Review the Judaizers equation: Salvation = Jesus + works. What's wrong with the equation? Why would Paul call them false believers?*
4. *Read Galatians 1:6-8. What are some modern day beliefs that twist the Good News of the Gospel? How is that impacting the Church today?*
5. *Read Romans 3:22. What makes us right with God? Why doesn't grace give us a license to sin?*
6. *Have you trusted in Jesus alone for salvation? Or have you fallen for a different "gospel"?*



# DO YOU BUY IN TO RADICAL GRACE?

Find discipleship resources at [pursueGOD.org/galatians](https://pursueGOD.org/galatians)

*Galatians 2 refers to two different meetings that changed the course of the Christian church. Paul helped the early leaders to draw a line in the sand on the radical message of grace.*

- The early \_\_\_\_\_ met in Jerusalem to formalize the essence of the Christian message: Salvation = Jesus + nothing. Galatians 2:1-2, Acts 15:4-5, 10-11
- The gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ was a big leap for the disciples who had grown up \_\_\_\_\_, but it was even harder for the ex-Pharisee Paul. Galatians 2:8, Acts 9:3-4, Acts 10:34-36
- In Antioch, Paul met with \_\_\_\_\_ to call him out for not \_\_\_\_\_ up for the true gospel. He was acting one way in front of the Gentiles and another in front of the Jews. Galatians 2:14-16

## DISCUSSION:

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1. Briefly come up with a list of some "Die For" issues and some "Decide For" issues. How have you seen Christians elevate issues of lesser importance and become divisive over them?
2. How have you seen false teachers turn "Die For" issues into "Debate For" issues? Why is this a dangerous thing?
3. Read Acts 15:4-5 and Galatians 2:2. Why did some leaders think Gentiles should be circumcised and follow the law of Moses? How was that contradicting Paul's grace message?
4. Read Acts 15:6-11. Why was the law burdensome to the Jews? What was Peter's point in these verses?
5. Read Philippians 3:5,7. Knowing Paul's upbringing, why do you think he was able to embrace the message of grace more quickly than the other apostles?
6. Read Acts 10:11-16 and Galatians 2:11-12. After seeing the vision from God, why do you think Peter was afraid to stand for the gospel? How have you seen Christians (or yourself) fail to stand up for the gospel today?
7. Read Galatians 2:21. Share your insights from this verse. Will you stand for the gospel even if it costs you something?



# THE PROMISE YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

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*In the first two chapters of Galatians, Paul argues for the gospel from a personal point of view. In chapter 3 he turns to the Old Testament to prove his point, expounding on an ancient promise given to the father of the Jewish nation.*

- The gospel of grace (salvation = faith + nothing) was not a divine afterthought. God gave \_\_\_\_\_ a promise long before he gave \_\_\_\_\_ the law. Genesis 12:2-3, Galatians 3:17
- Abraham was justified back then the same way we are today: by \_\_\_\_\_. He couldn't have worked for his salvation, because God hadn't even given the \_\_\_\_\_ yet! Genesis 15:2,5-6, Galatians 3:6-7
- God's ancient promise to Abraham belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_, not just to Israel. That promised blessing is the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus unlocked this blessing through the cross. Galatians 3:14, Ephesians 1:14

## DISCUSSION:

1. Read Genesis 12:2-3. Identify the blessings God promised to Abraham. What do you think Abraham thought God meant when he said all families would be blessed through him?
2. Read Galatians 3:17. Why did elevating the law over everything violate God's promises in Genesis 12?
3. Read Genesis 15:1-6. Abraham showed great faith by trusting in God's future promises. How does Abraham's faith challenge you?
4. Read Galatians 3:6-7. What is Paul saying in these verses? Why would this be controversial to Jews?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27, Galatians 3:14 and Ephesians 1:13-14. According to Ezekiel, what does the Holy Spirit do for us? Why is the Holy Spirit the blessing for all people?
6. Read Acts 2:32-41. How did the Holy Spirit show up that day? How did Peter connect the promises in Genesis to the events of that day? How did the people respond?
7. How has the Holy Spirit's work in you been a blessing in your life?



# MAN-MADE VS. GOD-MADE RELIGION

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*In Galatians 4 Paul has the imagery of sonship in mind, turning to the Old Testament one last time to drive home his theological argument. This matters deeply to Paul, because the Galatians are like his spiritual children.*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ was like a babysitter waiting for the parents to get home. Now that \_\_\_\_\_ showed up, the sitter's job is done. Galatians 3:24-25, 4:4-5
- The Judaizers were like Abraham and \_\_\_\_\_: trying to \_\_\_\_\_ for what God had promised. This is the essence of man-made religion, and it always leads to \_\_\_\_\_. Galatians 4:23a
- True believers are like Abraham and \_\_\_\_\_: trusting God to keep his \_\_\_\_\_. This is biblical, God-made religion – and the only path to true freedom. Galatians 4:23b

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and Galatians 3:24-25. Review the 10 commandments. Why do you think God chose those as the top 10? How do those commands protect us?
2. Read Galatians 4:5-6. What did Paul mean that they were "slaves" to the law? Why do you think Paul used father/child language in this passage?
3. Read Genesis 16:1-4 and Galatians 4:23a. Knowing the promises God made in Genesis 12 and 15, why do you think Abraham went along with this plan with Hagar? How did Abraham create bondage for himself by going against God's plan originally?
4. Read Genesis 18:10, 18-19 and Galatians 4:23b. Who fulfilled the promises to Abraham? Why does Isaac represent a new covenant between God and his people?
5. Read Romans 4:13-14. Put this passage in your own words. Why couldn't Abraham take credit for the blessings God gave him? What does that mean for us?
6. What are the marks of a man-made religion? How is that different from the God-made religion of Christianity?



# TRUE FREEDOM & THE SWEET SPOT OF GRACE

Find discipleship resources at [pursueGOD.org/galatians](https://pursueGOD.org/galatians)

*In Galatians 5 Paul finally turns to the practical implications of the gospel of grace. Being saved by grace doesn't give us a license to sin; it sets us free to live the life God wanted for us all along.*

- Jesus came to give us true \_\_\_\_\_ – not slavery to works on one side or to \_\_\_\_\_ on the other. Galatians 5:1, Romans 6:1-2
- True freedom is about getting back to the \_\_\_\_\_ intent of the Law: love God, \_\_\_\_\_ others. Galatians 5:13-14, Matthew 22:37-40
- True \_\_\_\_\_ can only be achieved from the \_\_\_\_\_ and it's the product of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. Ezekiel 36:26-27, Galatians 5:16-17, 25

## **DISCUSSION:**

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1. How have you seen Christians misunderstand or misuse grace?
2. Read Galatians 5:1 and Romans 6:1-2. What do you think Paul means when he says not to get tied up in slavery to the law? What does it mean that we are dead to sin?
3. Read Galatians 5:13-14. How have you seen people use their freedom in Christ to justify ungodly actions? How does our freedom in Christ help us to love others?
4. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How have you seen your heart change since putting your trust in Jesus? How does the Holy Spirit help us to live out our faith?
5. Read Galatians 5:16-17. Share how you've battled between your flesh and the Spirit in your life? What are some things you do to fight temptation and follow the Spirit's leading?
6. Review the lists of the flesh and Spirit. How have you seen the relational sins of the flesh do damage to yourself and others? How have you seen the fruits of the Spirit heal broken relationships?
7. Which fruit of the Spirit is strong in your life right now? Which are lacking? (See Galatians 5:22-23)



# REAL FAITH IS ABOUT TRANSFORMATION

Find discipleship resources at [pursueGOD.org/galatians](https://pursueGOD.org/galatians)

*Good doctrine should lead to measurable life change, and Paul closes Galatians by giving a couple of practical applications of what that transformation looks like.*

- The transformation is \_\_\_\_\_. True believers gently and humbly help people when they fall into sin. Galatians 6:1-2
- The transformation is \_\_\_\_\_. True believers give to the needs of the local church. Galatians 6:6-10
- The transformation affects \_\_\_\_\_. Individuals become “new creations” who together become “the \_\_\_\_\_ people of God” Galatians 6:15-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. Describe a person in your life who is more interested in studying theology but doesn't really live it out? What are the dangers of this imbalance?
2. Read Galatians 6:1-2. Identify all that Paul says we should do in this passage. How have you seen Christians fail to help someone who has fallen into sin?
3. What does it look like to share in someone's burdens? What doesn't it look like?
4. Read Galatians 6:6-10. Why are our finances tied to our spiritual health? How have you seen money derail a person's pursuit of God?
5. Read Galatians 6:15-16. Evaluate your own life: what has changed in your behaviors, values and priorities since putting your faith in Jesus? How are you still being ruled by your old self?

