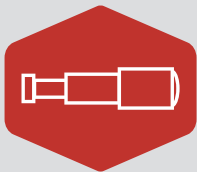




Journey through Galatians

Lesson 1: Introduction

Main Idea: Before you begin to chew the bite-sized pieces of Galatians, it is best to be familiar with its entirety. This first lesson will provide an overview of the entire Book of Galatians to prepare you for the ones to come.



The Author's Lens (Spyglass)

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

As you begin this study, background knowledge is helpful. Read the following synopsis excerpted from the *Fire Bible*^{®1}

- Author: the apostle Paul
- Theme: spiritual salvation and freedom by grace through faith
- Date of writing: AD 49
- Background: This book was written to the churches in the southern region of the Roman province of Galatia (Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe) during Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14). This letter was probably his first.
- Purpose: Paul wrote Galatians to reject the teaching that a person had to follow the requirements of the Mosaic law in order to fully experience

¹ Donald C. Stamps, *Fire Bible®: English Standard Version®*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 2011), 2003-2004.

God's grace. He wanted to reiterate that spiritual salvation is possible only through faith in Jesus Christ, not by relying on the Old Testament law.

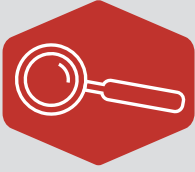
- Survey: Paul's opponents wrote to weaken his influence in the churches.
 - » They presented three claims against Paul.
 - He was not an original apostle.
 - He did not have a consistent salvation message with the Jerusalem church.
 - He taught grace, which would result in lawless and careless living.
 - » Paul responded succinctly, powerfully, and fully to each charge. He showed that new life through Christ involves freedom from Jewish legal traditions. He also pointed out that Christian freedom involves living by the power of the Holy Spirit in a lifestyle of loving submission to God and loving consideration toward others.
- As you read through this introduction, journal any thoughts or questions you may have.



My Lens (Eyeglasses)

What does this Scripture say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in the text and bullet points below, you will better understand what God's Word is saying to you today.

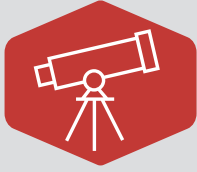
- Read the entire Book of Galatians before the first session according to the schedule below. Before you begin your daily readings, please see the next section where you will find additional instructions for each day.
 - » Day 1: Chapter 1
 - » Day 2: Chapter 2
 - » Day 3: Chapter 3:1-14
 - » Day 4: Chapter 3:15-25
 - » Day 5: Chapter 3:26-4:20
 - » Day 6: Chapter 4:21-5:15
 - » Day 7: Chapter 5:16-26
 - » Day 8: Chapter 6



The Holy Spirit Lens (Magnifying Glass)

How can the Scripture apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

- Highlight and write down the following in your journal as you read through Galatians:
 - » Recurring words
 - » Places mentioned
 - » Names mentioned
- Circle the following words with the recommended colored pencils:
 - » "Faith" in orange
 - » "Grace" and "freedom" in green
 - » "Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ" in purple
 - » "Law" in red
- Look over your notes for Galatians and write down three things you hope to learn and apply to your life as a result of this study.
- What thoughts did the Holy Spirit bring to your mind as you read Galatians this week?
- What was your favorite verse from Galatians this week?



Upward and Outward Focus (Telescope)

How does the Scripture affect your relationship with God and others? You experience God's Word in action as you use it to direct your journey with Him and those around you. Answer the following questions and record the answers in your journal.

- How can studying the Book of Galatians deepen your love for God?

- How can you practically demonstrate to others your deepened love for God?



Using My *Fire Bible*

Read the study notes for the introduction to the Book of Galatians in the Fire Bible and then answer the question.

- What information did you learn from the introduction that was new to you?