

THE BOOK OF
GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE: CHRIST IS ENOUGH

The Crisis in Galatia

1. Paul preached the Gospel of grace.
2. The Galatians received Christ.
3. False teachers added Law and performance.
4. The churches began drifting.
5. Paul writes while there is still time to stop it...

BOOK THEME

The gospel doesn't merely forgive sinners; it transforms them into people who increasingly look like Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, producing the spiritual fruit that legalism can never manufacture.

"Grace Alone. Faith Alone. Christ Alone."

Galatians Answers 2 Questions:

1. How is someone made right with God?

2. How do we grow and continue living as Christians?

Key Verses: Gal. 2:19-21; 5:16-25

Galatians 3:1-9

Begun by the Spirit

How Christians Grow and Change

Recap...

What about the Law then?

What about a Faith that works?

**What place does effort and merit have
in the kingdom of God?**

Romans 7:12 says God's law is holy,
righteous and good.

The problem isn't the law.

The problem is us.

The law reveals God's righteousness,
but it also exposes our
unrighteousness.

What the Law Cannot Do

The law can tell you what righteousness looks like.

But it cannot make you righteous.

The law can expose your sin.

But it cannot wash your sin away.

(Rom. 3:20, 23; Jas. 2:10)

This Is Christianity

Not simply: Christ died for me.

But: **I died with Christ.**

Not simply: Christ rose from the dead.

But: **His resurrection life is now at work in me.**

(Rom. 6:4–6; Col. 3:1–3)

Galatians 3:1-29 ESV

(1) O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

(2) Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

(3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

(4) Did you suffer so many things in vain-- if indeed it was in vain?

(5) Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith--

(6) just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

(7) Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

(8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

(9) So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

The Big Idea

The Christian life begins, continues, and matures through **FAITH** (a dependent relationship with Christ) empowered by the Holy Spirit - not through rules, religious performance, or human strength. See [Genesis 15:6](#)

Point 1 of 3

Change Begins by Seeing Christ Clearly

The Galatians did not first have a behavior problem. They had a vision problem. Something had moved Christ out of the center.

Gal. 3:1; 1 Cor. 1:18, 23

Gal. 3:1

Foolish = anoētos

Able to understand but failing to use it (see Luke 24:25).

Bewitched = Their spiritual vision had become distorted

before your eyes...

Paul preached Christ crucified clearly and their own transformation so obvious that it was as though the Galatians had witnessed the crucifixion themselves (1 Cor. 1:18, 23; 2:1-5).

The Galatians did not first have
a behavior problem.

They had a vision problem.

They had lost sight of Jesus.

Our behavior is the fruit of what the heart desires, trusts, fears, and worships (Prov. 4:23; Luke 6:43-45).

“What did I do?” vs What did I want?

**The Law/Rules restrain
behavior**

Christ transforms the heart

John 15:4–5

**Rules exist because
relationship doesn't**

Never replace Christ with rules

**Rules begin with
what you must do.**

**The gospel begins with what
Christ has done.**

Never replace relationship with rules

**Christ crucified had moved
from the center**

1 Cor. 1:18, 23

**We pursue holiness because
in Christ we are already loved**
(Eph. 1:3-6; Titus 2:11-14)

**Real change begins by seeing
Christ clearly**

Galatians 3:2-5 ESV

(2) Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

(3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

(4) Did you suffer so many things in vain--
if indeed it was in vain?

(5) Does he who supplies the Spirit to you
and works miracles among you do so by
works of the law, or by hearing with faith--

Point 2 of 3

Change Continues Through the Spirit

The Galatians received the Spirit through hearing with faith. The flesh that could not save them could never bring them to maturity.

Gal. 3:2-5; Eph. 1:13-14

**Did you achieve the
Spirit?**

Or did you receive the Spirit?

Gal. 3:2

**What the Spirit began,
the flesh cannot finish**

Gal. 3:2-3; Phil. 1:6

Religion says achieve

The gospel says receive

Rom. 8:9, 14–16

What Rules Cannot Produce

1. A rule can describe patience.

The Spirit produces patience.

2. A rule can force an apology.

The Spirit produces repentance.

3. The flesh can produce religious activity.

It cannot produce spiritual life.

Gal. 5:22-23; John 15:4-5

**Grace opposes earning,
not effort**

We work because God is already at work
within us.

Phil. 2:12–13

Maturity deepens dependence on Jesus

God began the work. God continues the
work. God will complete the work.

John 15:4–5

Point 3 of 3

Change Grows by Believing God's Promise

Abraham could not produce God's promise through human strength. He believed God, and God counted him righteous.

Gal. 3:6; Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:18-21

**Faith does not bring God a resume.
Faith brings God an empty hand.**

Faith rests in the strength of the Savior,
not the strength of our performance.

Gal. 3:6; 2 Cor. 5:21

The Blessing of Abraham

1. **Justification** - Declared righteous before God
2. **Reconciliation** - Brought near to God
3. **Adoption** - Welcomed into God's family
4. **The Holy Spirit** - God's presence and power within us

Gal. 3:7-9, 14; Eph. 2:11-22

HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

(Paul Tripp, HOW PEOPLE CHANGE)

Heat = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps.
88; James 1:1-15)

Thorns = our sin, flesh response (Eph.
4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

Cross = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1:16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

Fruit = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace- empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)

**Believe God's promise.
Trust in Christ. Receive the gift.**

Jesus lived the life you could not live,
died the death you deserved, and rose
from the grave. Live with and for Him.

Rom. 3:23; 4:24-25; 10:9-13

1st Takeaway

Ps. 139:23–24

Look Beneath Your Behavior

Heart question:

What did I want, fear, trust, or treat as more important than Christ?

Heart action:

Write down the behavior, the desire beneath it, and the promise you forgot.

2nd Takeaway

John 15:4–5

Replace Rules with Relational Dependence

Relationship Question: What has become a checklist instead of communion with Christ?

Morning Action: Before your phone, talk to Him, read Gal. 2:20–3:3. Ask the Lord for desire to, and give Him permission to change you.

3rd Takeaway

Gal. 6:1–2; Jas. 5:16

Be all in

Community question:

What faithful step must I take, and who should walk with me?

Community action:

Tell one mature believer the struggle, God's promise, and your next step.

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Abide in Christ

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself... neither can you, unless you abide in me... apart from me you can do nothing.”

—John 15:4–5

(Ps. 1:1–3; Col. 2:6–7)

THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

From Genesis to Galatians

- Genesis introduces the promise.
- Galatians explains how that promise is fulfilled through Christ—not through the Law. (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 3:16-29; Eph. 1:7–10; Heb 11:13–16)

Overview

Galatians

The Gospel Defended (1–2)

The Gospel Explained (3–4)

The Gospel Applied (5–6)

GALATIANS and HISTORY

"The Magna Carta of Christian Liberty"

Luther called it "my epistle." He never found peace through religious practices — until **Galatians** reminded him that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Called "a founding document of the Reformation".

Catching Up

1. Jesus died and rose again
2. Paul persecuted the Church
3. Jesus confronted him on the Damascus Road
4. Paul got saved and changed
5. Barnabas welcomed him

Catching Up (cont.)

6. Antioch became the missionary sending church ([Acts 13](#))
7. Churches planted in Galatia ([Acts 14](#))
8. False teachers arrived after Paul left.
9. The mail arrives.... **Boom, Roasted.**

Around A.D. 47–48, the Spirit and the Church called Paul and Barnabas to carry the gospel into modern-day Turkey.

Acts 13:2–3

"The Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul.'"

Acts 14:19–20

In Lystra, Paul was stoned and dragged from the city, "supposing that he was dead."

These churches were planted through suffering.



1st Missionary Journey: Galatians

Saul and Barnabas sent out by Antioch

Acts 13:1-3

Paul preaches; jealous Jews stir up
opposition Acts 13:14-15

They stay a long time; but a Gentile plot
on their lives forces them on. Acts 14:1-7

Galatia at a Glance

1. **Region** - not a City, a network of churches.
2. Located in modern-day central **Turkey**.
3. Settled by **Celtic** (Gallic) tribes around 278 BC. Roman in 25 BC.

Recap: Galatians 1:1–10

- The gospel rests on God's authority and Christ's resurrection (1:1–2)
- It begins with grace not works (1:3–5)
- There is only one (1:6–7)
- It is worth fighting for (1:8–9)
- Live for the approval of Christ (1:10)

The Law Reveals

“By works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

—Rom. 3:20

(Rom. 7:7, 12–13; Gal. 3:19)

4. Crossroads — Where cultures, commerce, and ideas collided.
5. Diverse — Celts, Greeks, Romans, and Jews lived together.
6. Religious — Paganism, emperor worship, and Judaism all competed for hearts.
7. Earliest New Testament letter?