

*RCC Women's
Ministry*



Knowing Christ

LESSONS FROM PAUL'S
LIFE & MINISTRY

Acts & Galatians

*September 6 -
November 1, 2022*

Knowing Christ

LESSONS FROM PAUL'S LIFE & MINISTRY

"We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me."

-The Apostle Paul
Colossians 1:28-29

Called By Christ

ACTS

September 6: Intro
September 13: Lesson 1

Freedom In Christ

GALATIANS

September 20: Lesson 2
September 27: Lesson 3
October 4: Lesson 4
October 11: Lesson 5
October 18: Lesson 6
October 25: Lesson 7
November 1: Closing



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

***“We proclaim Christ!
We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can,
all that we know about Him, so that, if possible,
we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus.
This is what I am working at all the time,
with all the strength that God gives me.”***

***-- The Apostle Paul
Colossians 1:28-29 Phillips***

CALLED BY CHRIST
Paul's Conversion
A.D. 35

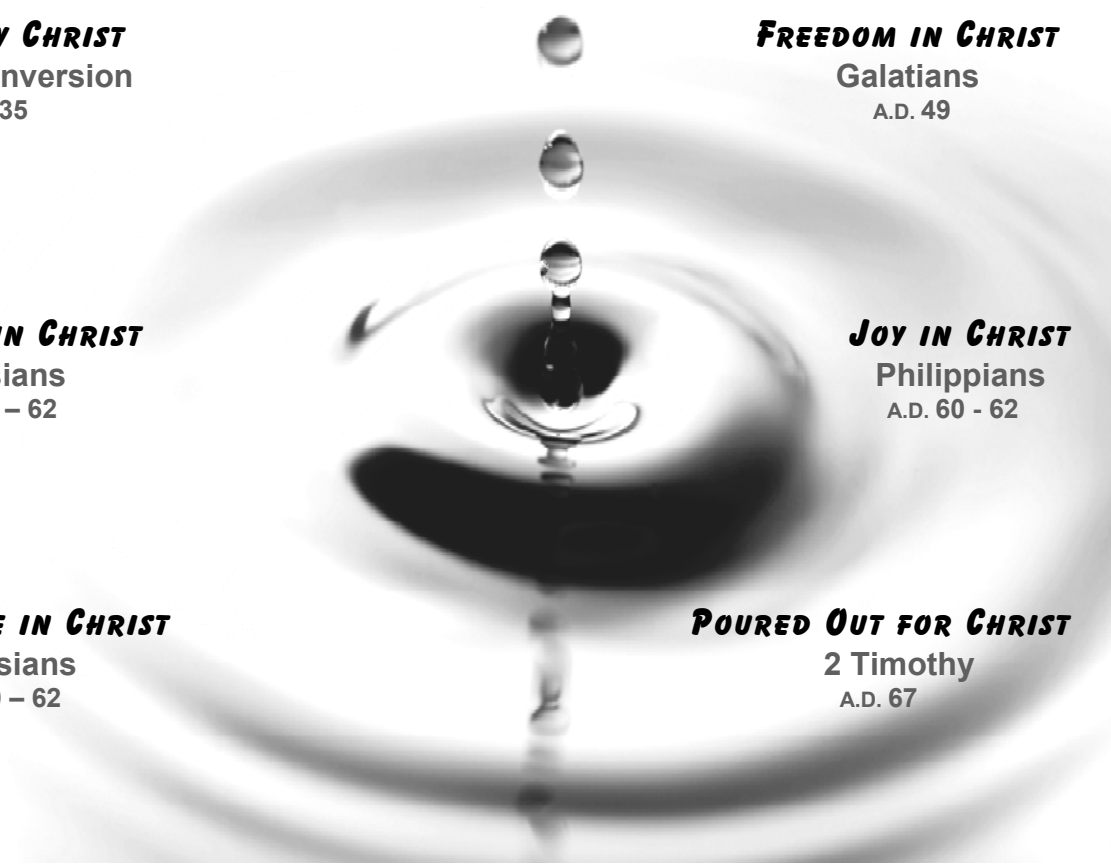
FREEDOM IN CHRIST
Galatians
A.D. 49

LIVING IN CHRIST
Ephesians
A.D. 60 – 62

JOY IN CHRIST
Philippians
A.D. 60 - 62

COMPLETE IN CHRIST
Colossians
A.D. 60 – 62

POURED OUT FOR CHRIST
2 Timothy
A.D. 67



Introduction

Paul opened his eyes and, for a moment, tried to remember where he was. The room was bare and simple, familiar only in the way that it looked the same as any other to this road weary traveler. Salt air and the bustling noise of a nearby harbor cleared the last bit of slumber away. He was in Miletus, a sleepy port on the jagged shores of the Mediterranean. This was just a stopover. Jerusalem was his destination.

In three missionary trips spanning just over a decade, Paul had logged more than 6,000 miles by land and sea. (Not to mention countless miles covered during his early years as a Christian.) For this traveling minister, home wasn't defined so much by a place as it was by a passion. He felt most at home preaching the gospel *wherever* that might be.

Heading to Jerusalem, Paul could see clouds gathering. He was no stranger to hardship but walking into a storm is never easy. Even his travel companions (a handful of friends including Luke) were feeling apprehensive. Paul arranged passage for them on a ship bound from Troas; but he intended to make the first leg of the journey alone, by foot. Saying he would meet them at the next port, Paul climbed the coastal path up to the road that followed the rugged shoreline. It was a twenty mile walk with the sapphire blue sea to his right, sun-drenched hills to his left, and undisturbed time to settle his heart. Only God and Paul know what they talked about that day. After Paul boarded the ship in Assos, Luke tells us they sailed by day, made port each night, and arrived in Miletus three days later.

Paul sent word to the church leaders in Ephesus, some thirty miles away. Could they come to Miletus? If they made good time, they could be there by morning. Paul's urgent summons was quickly answered. Let the scene play out in your mind. A messenger leads the men to a rented room where Paul and his companions are staying. Greetings are exchanged; Paul asks his friends to sit down; Luke reaches for his pen. All eyes quietly search the face of their old friend, waiting for him to speak. Paul says what he's been rehearsing in his thoughts and prayers all night. His words sink in slowly at first, but then his meaning comes clear...he's *saying goodbye*. Where clouds gather, rain is bound to fall and the tears flowed freely in that room. They got down on their knees, wept and prayed together, then walked Paul and his companions to the ship. It was a difficult send-off. "We tore ourselves away from them," Luke wrote.

Similar scenes played out in city after city as friends begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Luke even admits that he feared for Paul's safety and pleaded with him not to continue. Strained with emotion, Paul finally exclaimed that their weeping and constant pleading was breaking his heart! But he was resolved. *I'm willing to suffer, even die, for my Lord Jesus*. Paul meant what he said and eventually he died for his faith in Jesus; but not before showing Christians how to *live* by faith in Jesus.

Let's begin this study by acknowledging the obvious: the apostle Paul was an extraordinary man called by God to fulfill a unique role in Christian history. No one will be filling his shoes. Tracing his steps is no small order either, but it's worth every bit of energy and effort we can muster. Why? Because you can't follow Paul's tracks very far before discovering that God has a plan for your life too. Jesus died to give you eternal life *starting now*. How will you live it? Consider Paul's answer on that stopover in Miletus when he said, *My life is worth nothing to me unless I spend it doing what Jesus called me to do, telling others about the good news of God's grace*.

Do you want to know Jesus more and experience the power of His presence in your daily life? If you mean business, dig in. Read these letters like you've never read them before. Don't think of them as chapters in a textbook—that's not how Paul wrote them! Let them come alive and speak to you with all the Spirit-breathed life and passion that Paul poured into them.

CALLED BY CHRIST

Paul's Conversion

Acts 8:1-3, Acts 9:1-31
Inductive Discovery Lesson 1



Born: In Tarsus, an important city in the province of Cilicia. Because of its location on a major route connecting Asia Minor to the East, Tarsus was a prosperous trade center. The Taurus Mountains curved around the city like a natural fortress, making it a strategic military post. The Cydnus River flowed through the middle of Tarsus and out into a manmade harbor that was the boast of the ancient world. Some forty years before Paul's birth, Marc Antony proudly watched Cleopatra's extravagant armada sail into this harbor to meet him. Tarsus was also a city of culture and learning, a "university town" known for its study of philosophy.

Family: Paul came from a family of Diaspora Jews, meaning they were Jews who lived outside of Palestine. In Paul's day, Jews were living in every major city of the world, including the region known as Syria-Cilicia. But while Paul was born into a Gentile world, he lived in a strict Jewish home. His parents were devoutly committed to raising their son according to the sacred Law of Moses, shielding him as much as possible from the contamination of Gentile ways.

We can't say much with certainty about Paul's family. His mother may have died while Paul was still a young child. His father was a prosperous tentmaker, a free Roman citizen, and a strict Pharisee. He had at least one sibling, a sister mentioned in Acts 23:16.

Education: For devout Jews, social and religious life revolved around the synagogue. As a child, Paul learned to read the Scriptures, repeating every phrase until the rabbi deemed it precisely correct. He was taught to read and write in Aramaic and Greek. By the education standards of the day, Paul excelled in Jewish history, poetry, and the prophets by the age of thirteen. He was sent to Jerusalem to study under Gamaliel, a famous rabbi who not only saturated his students in Hebrew scripture, but exposed them to Greek learning as well.

Young Adult: Paul was trained as a rabbi (part teacher, preacher, lawyer) who aspired to a seat on the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court of his day. Whether he actually achieved that goal is uncertain, but he was clearly pursuing it when we first meet him in the Book of Acts.

Paul may, or may not, have been married. Jews rarely chose to remain single, and candidates for the Sanhedrin were required to be married and have children. Paul never mentions a wife, but his teaching indicates he had personal knowledge of the blessings and pressures that come with marriage and raising a family. It is commonly thought that Paul lost his wife and chose to remain single the rest of his life.

Occupation: Paul was a tentmaker, like his father before him. It was a lucrative occupation, especially in his hometown. Tarsus was famous for its black tents, made with an expensive fabric (called cilicium) woven from black goat's hair. Paul's skill as a tentmaker gave him the freedom to pursue his ministry without becoming financially dependent upon others.

Working Text for Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-31

New American Standard Version (NAS)

8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **2** Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. **3** But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.



9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, **2** and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; **4** and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" **5** And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, **6** but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." **7** The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. **8** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. **9** And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." **11** And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." **13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints in Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles

and kings and the sons of Israel; **16** for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." **17** So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; **19** and he took food and was strengthened.

20 Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, **20** and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." **21** All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" **22** But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, **24** but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; **25** but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. **28** And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. **29** And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. **30** But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus. **31** So the church throughout Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul’s train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Acts 8:1-3

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Acts 9:1-9

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Acts 9:10-22

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Acts 9:23-31

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Tracing Paul's Steps: *The Early Years*

- Saul has a life-changing encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:3)
- From Damascus, Saul goes to Arabia (unknown period of time). Returns to Damascus. (Galatians 1:17)
- Jews in Damascus plot to kill Saul; he escapes in a basket let down over the city wall. (Acts 9:25)
- Saul goes to Jerusalem 3 years after his conversion; meets Peter & James. (Acts 9:26-27; Gal. 1:18-19)
- His life in danger, Saul is compelled to leave Jerusalem after only 15 days. (Acts 9:29; Acts 22:17-21; Galatians 1:18)
- Saul boards a ship in Caesarea; returns to Tarsus and the “regions of Syria and Cilicia” for an unknown period of time. (Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21)
- News of Gentile converts in Antioch reaches Jerusalem; Barnabas is sent to investigate. Barnabas goes to Tarsus and brings Saul back with him to Antioch, where they minister for a year. (Acts 11:19-26)
- The church of Antioch sends Barnabas and Saul to Jerusalem with famine relief. (Acts 11:27-30)
- Barnabas and Saul return to Antioch, bringing John Mark with them. (Acts 12:25)





INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Acts 8:1-3

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Acts 9:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Acts 9:10-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Acts 9:23-31

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**“So the church...enjoyed peace,
being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord
and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”**
Acts 9:31 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

It was a time of “peace” for the churches, but not a time of complacency, for they grew both spiritually and numerically. They seized the opportunity to repair and strengthen their sails before the next storm began to blow! ¹

-Warren Wiersbe

God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*, pg. 442

Message Notes:

Lined area for taking notes, featuring horizontal lines and a decorative, torn-paper border.



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 1:1-24

Inductive Discovery Lesson 2

Paul was in turmoil. The news he was hearing out of Galatia disturbed him to the core. Like a father whose toddler wanders into traffic, his first instinct was to snatch his spiritual children out of danger. At the same time, he wanted to scold them for their exasperating failure to watch where they're walking. Something else was boiling up in Paul, a familiar emotion that had fueled his actions as a zealous young Pharisee. He was angry. Back then, his fury was misplaced, self-righteous. Now that he was living on the right side of grace, "self" had nothing to do with it. He fiercely opposed anyone who sought to rob believers of their freedom in Christ.

Paul's sense of urgency was so strong that he would have hopped on a plane or picked up the phone if he could have. Aren't we glad Paul didn't have that option? By God's design, his only recourse was to write a passionate letter to remind the Galatians that they were saved by grace through faith. There was nothing more they had to do in order to be full-fledged Christians. *I'm astonished!* Paul wrote. *Why are you so quick to forget the grace that was given to you in Christ? Do you really think outward observances can keep you in good standing with God?*

Paul's anxious heart wanted the matter cleared up for his Galatian friends, but God knew that every generation of believers would struggle with these same issues. Just like the Galatians, we can fall into a pattern of measuring our relationship with God based on what we do for Him, rather than what He has done for us.

So, instructed and inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul sent this straight-talking letter to stand up for the truth. God's grace sets us free and makes it possible to live by faith!

BACKGROUND

On his first missionary endeavor, Paul traveled through southern Galatia preaching the gospel and established churches in several cities. This journey took him through the roughest, most dangerous parts of the Roman Empire at the time.

After two grueling and gratifying years, he and Barnabas returned to Antioch. The church welcomed home their missionary friends and listened, amazed to hear all that God had done with them. God had opened a door of faith to Gentiles! This was just the beginning and Paul was eager to take the gospel far and wide. For the time being, Paul stayed in Antioch for some much needed rest and spiritual refreshment. Then some men from Jerusalem showed up in Antioch, insisting that Gentile believers aren't truly saved unless they are circumcised. Paul and Barnabas vehemently dispute this and the debate goes back to Jerusalem before it's settled. The church leaders unanimously agree that Paul's teaching is backed by the Scriptures and approved by the Holy Spirit. They send a letter and their *own* representatives back to the church in Antioch to encourage the believers to keep growing in their faith.

Paul hoped the matter was resolved once and for all; but when he returned to Antioch, he learned that the *legalists* had filtered their way into the churches of Galatia. They questioned Paul's credentials as a messenger of Christ and insisted that Gentiles must fall in line with the strict Jewish observance of the Law. Against this backdrop of unrest and confusion, Paul writes to the Galatians. This was possibly Paul's first New Testament letter, written around 49 A.D.

Tracing Paul's Steps: *The First Missionary Journey*

- The church at Antioch sends Barnabas and Saul to do missionary work in the west. (Acts 13:1-3)
- Accompanied by Mark, they sail from Selucia to Barnabas' home island of Cyprus. From Salamis to Paphos, they proclaim the gospel. Elymus opposes them; Saul (now known as Paul) rebukes him; he is struck blind. The trio sails to Perga, but Mark changes his mind and returns to Jerusalem. (Acts 13:5-13)
- Paul preaches in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch; nearly the whole city turns out to listen. Jewish leaders become jealous and confrontational. When Paul boldly states his intention to take the gospel to the Gentiles, they are run out of town. Paul & Barnabas go to Iconium. (Acts 13:15-52)
- At Iconium, Paul's message gets a mixed response. Many believe, but fierce opposition and death threats force them to leave. In Lystra, Paul is dragged out of the city, stoned and left for dead. While his companions stand over him, Paul rises and goes back into the city. Next day they go to Derbe, where they are warmly received. After a time, they retrace their steps all the way back to Antioch. (Acts 14)
- Men from Judea arrive in Antioch, insisting that Gentile believers must be circumcised. Paul sharply disagrees and the conflict is taken to the Jerusalem Council. The Council backs Paul and sends a delegation carrying their letter back to Antioch with him. (Acts 15)
- Around the same time, Paul is alarmed to discover the "circumcision party" has been discrediting his apostolic authority and pressing the same demands on his Gentile converts throughout Galatia. He writes this letter to the Galatians in response to the crisis.



Working Text for Galatians 1:1-24
English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—**2** and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: **3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— **7** not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. **10** For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. **12** For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. **13** For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. **14** And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. **15** But when he who had set

me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, **16** was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; **17** nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. **19** But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) **21** Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. **22** And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. **23** They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." **24** And they glorified God because of me.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 1:1-5

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 1:6-10

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 1:1-24

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**apostle**” (vs.1) _____

“some who **trouble** you” (vs.7) _____

“and want to **pervert** the gospel of Christ” (vs.7) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 1:1-5

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 1:6-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 1:11-17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 1:18-24

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**“...the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins
so that He might rescue us from this present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father.”**

Galatians 1:3-4 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

John 17:15-16



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study? How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The area is framed by a dark, irregular border that looks like a torn piece of paper or a shadow. The background of the area is a light gray color.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved



Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 2:1-21

Inductive Discovery Lesson 3

Paul's concern for his Galatian friends went deep. After all, these were the people who came to faith when Paul and Barnabas made that first missionary journey. For two years Paul had poured blood, sweat, and tears into sharing the gospel with every person who would listen. Wherever they went, crowds gathered.

Paul remembered how the crowds received them eagerly, only to turn on them days later. That pattern of reception-and-rejection played out in nearly every town they visited. The opposition had been fierce and relentless, and these Christians were the fruit of that labor. New believers soaked up truth like sponges. For believing Jews, this gospel of grace was fresh wind blowing through their ancient faith. Gentiles were delighted to learn that they, too, were included in God's plan. In every community, churches sprang up and disciples were made. Paul could see their faces and remember the time he spent in their homes. He recalled how kind they were to take care of him when he got so sick. He still bore scars from the stoning he took in Lystra, but he didn't regret his visit to that town. Among the friends he made on his way back through was a promising young man named Timothy.

Paul could truly say his time in Galatia had been grueling, but oh so gratifying! He loved these people like family, and it comes through in the tone of his letter to them. When family is in trouble, you don't skirt the issues; you get right to the heart of the matter. Since Paul's authority as an apostle was being questioned, he tackled that issue head on. Keep in mind, Paul wasn't being thin-skinned here. He accepted the fact that personal insults and public humiliation came with the calling. It wasn't pleasant, but Paul remembered the Lord's words through Ananias, "I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

No, Paul wasn't defending his credentials because he cared so much about his reputation. But if he allowed men to discredit him, it would undermine the message that salvation comes *by grace alone*. Paul could not, *would not*, stand silently by and let that happen.

Tracing Paul's Steps: *Paul Recalls How His Ministry Began*

- After seeing Jesus, Paul was told to wait in Damascus for further instructions. The Lord sent Ananias to tell Paul he was chosen to be a witness to all men. (Acts 22:9-16)
- From Damascus, Paul went to Arabia (unknown period of time). Returned to Damascus. (Gal. 1:17)
- Three years after his conversion, Paul visits Jerusalem but believers are suspicious of him. Barnabas brings Paul to meet Peter and James who hear his testimony and accept him into fellowship. (Acts 9:26-27; Galatians 1:18-19)
- Paul's preaching in Jerusalem is met with fierce resistance. Jesus tells Paul to leave quickly; He is being sent to the Gentiles. Christian brothers help Paul to safely leave. (Acts 22:17-21; Acts 9:30)
- Paul preaches in Syria and Cilicia for a time; scholars estimate 9-11 years. (Galatians 1:21) He partners with Barnabas in Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26) At some point during this period, Paul experiences a heavenly vision. (2 Cor. 12:1-10)
- The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem with famine relief. (Acts 11:27-30)
- Paul's first missionary trip (with Barnabas); he preaches in cities throughout South Galatia. (Acts 13-14)
- Fourteen years after his conversion, Paul visits Jerusalem again. Peter, James and John ("men of reputation") acknowledge Paul's calling as an apostle to the Gentiles. (Galatians 2:7-9)



Working Text for Galatians 2:1-21

New King James Version (NKJ)

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. 2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. 3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), 5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. 6 But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. 7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter 8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), 9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. 17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

Galatians 2:11-14

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 2:15-21

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 2:1-21

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**truth** of the **gospel**” (vs.5) _____

“the gospel...**worked effectively** in me” (vs.8) _____

“**crucified** with Christ” (vs.20) _____

“Christ **lives** in me” (vs.20) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 2:1-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 2:11-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 2:15-21

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

I have been crucified with Christ;
 it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me;
 and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God
 Who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 Galatians 2:20 NKJV

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

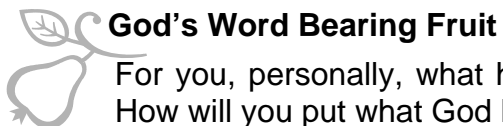
Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Sometimes we forget to keep living by the grace that saved us when we first came to Christ. Jesus. Christ has done *everything* necessary for our salvation. We cannot earn the grace of God; it only comes free.¹



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ *Ryken's Bible Handbook*, Tyndale House Publishers, pg. 519

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like torn paper.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved

Fr: paultheapostle@goodnews.com

To: believers@galatia.org

Subj: threats to your faith and freedom in Christ

YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS, WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU? Just answer me one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the Law or by believing in Jesus who died to set you free?

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?

Paul's intensity boiled to the surface again. His friends in Galatia were pulled into an attractive lie; how could he, from a distance, bring them back to the truth? Since troublemakers in their midst confused them with the notion that keeping the Law is what makes you righteous, Paul went back over the basics.

He reminded them that Abraham, who put his faith in God, was a true believer *before* the Law was ever written. He told them again how God's promise to bless Abraham was passed on to every person who, like Abraham, put their faith in God. Reading between the lines, we hear Paul's exasperation. *Do you really think being religious makes you righteous? That isn't the good news I brought you! Who have you been listening to?*

Paul struggled at how quick to forget, how fickle the Galatians could be! But his frustration was tempered with love. He realized that these Gentile converts might still be confused about the purpose of the Law. So he used a simple example from everyday life to explain the Law's role. *The Law is like a tutor*, Paul wrote.

Background

"In Greek culture, a guardian and teacher was a slave who had the important responsibility for the children in a family. A wealthy family might have one guardian for each child. This slave strictly disciplined the child, conducted the child to and from school, cared for the child, taught the child manners, and gave the child moral training. The guardian's role was temporary—he or she was responsible for the child until the child reached adult age (probably age sixteen).

The picture of the law serving as a guardian and teacher shows that the law was a temporary measure meant to lead us until Christ came. This leading was meant in the sense of the law watching over us until we could receive our 'adulthood,' our full relationship with the Father, through Christ's coming."¹

¹ Life Application New Testament Commentary, pg. 779

Working Text for Galatians 3:1-29

New International Version (NIV)

1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **2** I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? **3** Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? **4** Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? **5** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

6 Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” **7** Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8** The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **10** All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” **11** Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” **12** The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” **13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” **14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

15 Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. **16** The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. **17** What I mean is this: The

law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. **18** For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. **19** What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. **20** A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. **21** Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. **22** But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. **24** So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. **25** Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. **26** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 3:1-5

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 3:6-14

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 3:15-22

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 3:23-29

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 3:1-29.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“works of the **law**” (vs.2,5,10) _____

“hearing of **faith**” (vs.2,5) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 3:1-5

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 3:6-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 3:15-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 3:23-29

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**But the Scripture has confined all under sin,
that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ
might be given to those who believe.
Galatians 3:22 NKJ**

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

The Law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.
- D. L. Moody



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The area is filled with a light gray background and contains approximately 25 horizontal lines. The edges of the area are irregular and dark, suggesting a torn or hand-drawn border.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved



Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 4:1-31

Inductive Discovery Lesson 5

Despite his tough language, Paul understood that his friends in Galatia thought they were doing the right thing. But they fell in with the wrong crowd; men who claimed to be more concerned for their spiritual growth than Paul. Apparently they were pretty convincing, since Paul was being treated like the troublemaker. Paul let his feelings surface as he recalled the early days of their friendship. *Have I now become your enemy because I continue to tell you the truth?* In spite of the tension, Paul assured the Galatians of his own genuine concern for them. He loved them enough to point out their inconsistencies and risk offense if only it would bring them to their senses.

Background

At the time Galatians was written, the early church was still experiencing growth pains. As the gospel spread and more Gentiles came to faith, the relationship between Jewish and Gentile converts had to be sorted out.

What defined a Christian? For Jews, the Law as a way of life was what separated them from the world and identified them as God's people. From the days of Moses and by God's command, Gentiles who desired to live among God's people were obliged to live by the Law. It is understandable, then, that many Jewish believers carried this same opinion into the early church. But the legalists carried it too far, making circumcision the litmus test for salvation (Acts 15:1). The message they sent to Gentile converts was loud and clear: you won't be accepted into fellowship as a true Christian unless you submit yourself to Mosaic Law.

The legalists may have believed they were protecting the church from slipping into lax moral and religious standards, but Paul saw their dangerous teaching for what it was and adamantly objected. If Gentiles were compelled to live like Jews, the gospel of grace would have been diluted. Fledgling believers (Jew and Gentile alike) would get bogged down in rules and regulations and the saving work of Jesus Christ would not be seen as sufficient.

For Paul, a devoutly Jewish man *saved by grace* and entrusted with taking the gospel to the Gentiles, this was no minor disagreement—it was a hill to die on. And not just for his friends in Galatia. The future of the church and true Christian faith was on the line.

Working Text for Galatians 4:1-31

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. **8** Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. **9** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? **10** You observe days and months and seasons and years! **11** I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

12 Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. **13** You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, **14** and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. **15** What then has become of the blessing you felt? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. **16** Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? **17** They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. **18** It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, **19** my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! **20** I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? **22** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. **23** But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. **24** Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. **25** Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. **26** But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. **27** For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." **28** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. **29** But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. **30** But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." **31** So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 4:1-11

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 4:12-20

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(continued next page)

Galatians 4:12-20 (continued)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Galatians 4:21-31

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 4:1-31.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**slave**” (vs.1,7) _____

“**son**” (vs.5,6,7) _____

“**heir**” (vs.1,7) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 4:1-11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 4:12-20

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 4:21-31

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying “Abba! Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.
Galatians 4:6-7 NAS**

Memorize God’s Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God’s Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

The Spirit that dwells in you, oh child of God, is none less than the same Spirit that was in Christ. He teaches us to know God's father-love, and to respond with childlike love and obedience.

- Andrew Murray¹

God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ Andrew Murray, *God's Best Secrets*

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like a torn piece of paper. The text "Message Notes:" is located at the top left corner of this area.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 5:1-26

Inductive Discovery Lesson 6

Paul was done making his argument against the legalists. Now it was time for the Galatians to decide. Will you choose to live by grace or by the law? *You can't have it both ways*, Paul says. He reminds his confused friends that Jesus set them free so they could live in freedom that only grace can provide. But what does that look like in everyday life?

"You are called to be free," Paul wrote. "But that doesn't mean you're free to indulge your sinful nature." Paul may have been responding to accusations that his gospel of grace was just a license to sin. He wanted his point to sink in. Sin is easy to spot (he lists some examples) and always unacceptable to God. But the law can't change human nature. *You don't have enough willpower to live by the law*. It demands what you can't deliver. "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

At this point, Paul utters what may be the most familiar part of the entire letter. "But the fruit of the Spirit is..."

Working Text for Galatians 5:1-26
New International Version (NIV)

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **2** Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. **3** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **4** You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **5** But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? **8** That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. **9** “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” **10** I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. **11** Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. **12** As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. **14** The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **15** If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. **19** The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 5:1-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 5:7-15

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(continued next page)

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 5:1-26

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“love” (vs.22) _____

“joy” (vs.22) _____

“peace” (vs.22) _____

“longsuffering” (vs.22) _____

“kindness” (vs.22) _____

“goodness” (vs.22) _____

“faithfulness” (vs.22) _____

“gentleness” (vs.22) _____

“self-control” (vs.22) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 5:1-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 5:7-15

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 5:16-26

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23 NAS**

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Fruit grows in a climate blessed with an abundance of the Spirit and the Word. We must remember that this fruit is produced *to be eaten*...

People around us are starving for love, joy, peace, and all the other graces of the Spirit.
- Warren Wiersbe

God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The area is framed by a dark, irregular border that looks like a torn piece of paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 6:1-18

Inductive Discovery Lesson 7

Paul was nearly finished. The hours had slipped by while he paced and persuaded, barely noticing his fatigue or the need for his penman to stretch. Now the afternoon sun was dipping into the horizon but Paul's mind would not rest.

Paul considered how his Galatian friends (he could see them now) would respond when this letter was read aloud. He knew the power of words to break down and build up. He prayed they would accept his reprimand as a *personal* wake-up call. Would they listen with ears to hear? A smug few might begin finger-pointing. *This won't do*, Paul said. Resist the urge to be an "I told you so" critic. Don't fool yourself into thinking you've got it all together. Lift your brother's spirit by loving him like Jesus would. Don't be misled. *You can't turn your nose up at God. You reap what you sow!*

One thought spilled out upon another until finally, Paul seemed to find his closing statement. "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Paul watched in silence as the penman carefully wrote his last sentence, word for word, and laid down the pen. The letter was written; his gospel defense was convincing and complete. But something within still simmered. Paul pulled the letter close and reached for the pen.

"Look at these huge letters," he wrote. "I am writing these words to you with my own hand." (Some say Paul wrote big because his vision was weak or his hands were arthritic, but it was probably for emphasis.) "These men who are always urging you to be circumcised—what are they after?" Paul's parting words exposed the legalists for what they were: men with false claims, inflated pride and selfish motives. Paul knew, from firsthand experience, how empty such boasting was. He would have none of it. "May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Even as Paul wrote the words, the reality of freedom in Christ flooded his heart again. It is all by grace through faith! *My friends, are you listening? Let grace rule your life.* The matter was settled.

"From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus..."

Working Text for Galatians 6:1-18

New American Standard (NAS)

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **5** For each one will bear his own load.

6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. **12** Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. **13** For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. **16** And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 6:1-5

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Galatians 6:6-10

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(continued next page)

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 6:1-18

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“spirit of **gentleness**” (vs.1) _____

“deceived” (vs.7) _____

“mocked” (vs.7) _____

“sow” (vs.7-8) _____

“reap” (vs.7-9) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 6:1-5

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 6:6-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 6:11-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption,
but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
Galatians 6:7-8 NKJ**

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Sow a thought and you reap an act; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

- Samuel Smiles



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The area is framed by a dark, irregular border that looks like a torn piece of paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved