



Galatians 1:1–3:14

Read Galatians chapters 1:1–3:14

GALATIANS 1-1:10

Gather the Clues

1. What does the salutation teach us about Paul? **An apostle appointed by Jesus Himself.** The Lord? **He sacrificed His life to rescue us from our sins the way God planned.**

2. Where else in Paul’s letter to the Galatians does he speak of his apostleship? **Galatians 1:9.** The grace of God? **Galatians 1:6.** *Note:* Both of these ideas are themes to the book.

3. Beginning in verse 6, what concerns Paul about the Galatians’ faith? **They were following a way that pretends to be the right way but it was not.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 1:10 with John 12:43 **The Pharisees loved human praise more than God’s praise. Paul is not trying to please people, but please God.**

GALATIANS 1:11-24

Gather the Clues

1. Summarize the argument Paul makes in Galatians 1:11-12. Why is this significant? **The message is not based on human reasoning, but is a direct revelation from Christ.**

2. What can we learn about Paul’s life before he became a follower of Christ? **He violently persecuted the church. He was excelling as a Jew. God chose him before he was born to proclaim the Good News. At the right time, God revealed Jesus to Paul.**

3. What can we learn about Paul’s life after he became a follower of Christ? **He sought out other followers—Peter and James. Now Paul is preaching the very faith he tried to destroy.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 1:11-24 with Acts 9:1-9 and 22:1-21. **These passages add to Galatians 1 by detailing the conversion of Saul to Paul and describing his past.**

GALATIANS 2:1-10

Gather the Clues

1. What did Paul accuse the false brethren of doing? **That they were taking away the freedom we have in Christ and forcing them to follow Jewish regulations.**

2. According to Paul, whom did the Lord call him to reach?
Gentiles. Peter to reach? Jews.

3. What did James, Peter (Cephas) and John offer to Paul and Barnabas? **Acceptance as co-workers.** Why was this significant?
They recognized that Paul was doing the same work and spreading the same message. It confirmed his apostleship.

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 2:1-10 with Acts 15:1-35 **Acts provides more detail of these events and explains why Titus was not to be circumcised.**

GALATIANS 2:11-21

Gather the Clues

1. Why did Paul oppose Peter (Cephas) in Antioch? **He was not following the truth of the gospel. He tried to make the Gentiles follow Jewish traditions.**

2. According to Paul, what does not justify a person in the eyes of the Lord? **Obeying laws.** What does? **Faith in Christ.**

3. Rewrite Galatians 2:20 in your own words.

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 2:15-16 with Romans 3:21-31 **Jewish traditions are not all bad. We must have faith first, then we can fulfill the law. See Romans 3:31.**

GALATIANS 3:1-14

Gather the Clues

1. What did Paul have against the Galatians' faith? **They were trying to become perfect by their own human effort.**

2. According to Paul, who are the sons of Abraham? Those who live by faith or by the law? **By faith. See verse 9.**

3. What did Christ's death on the cross accomplish? **He rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. See verse 13.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 3:1-14 with Genesis 15 **The Lord made a covenant with Abraham because of his faith, not works. See Genesis 15:6.**



Galatians 1:1–3:14

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Key Verse

Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Review

1. Review your notes from the previous week. What encouraged you? Challenged you?

Galatians 1:1-10

2. In 1:10, Paul argues that it is impossible to always please man while serving Christ. In what ways have you experienced this to be true? **At work, relationships, friendships?**

Galatians 1:11-24

3. In 1:11-24, Paul talks about his spiritual journey. Describe your spiritual journey up to this point. **How did you come to know Christ?**

Galatians 2:1-10

4. Paul continued to combat legalism. How do you think legalism has manifested itself in the church today? **Rules regarding music, style of dress, liestyle choices.** In your life? **Acting a certain way or living a certain lifestyle?**

Galatians 2:11-3:14

5. Paul argues that we are justified by faith and not by works of the law. What, if any, is the relationship between faith and the law? **Romans 3:31: "Do we then nullify the law through faith? Absolutely not! Instead we uphold the law."**

Case Study

6. A friend of yours from work strikes up a conversation with you about church. Curious as to what you believe, he asks, "What do you think it means to be a Christian?" Based upon what you have learned from Galatians 1-3:14, how do you answer him?

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He died on the cross to rescue us from our sins. God can now have a loving relationship with us because Jesus paid the price for our sins. It is our faith in Christ that provides salvation, not our works.



Galatians 3:15–4:31

Read Galatians 3:15-4:31

GALATIANS 3:15-22

Gather the Clues

1. What do these verses say about the giver and the receiver of the inheritance? **God gave it in grace as a gift; Abraham received through promise, it is unearned.**

2. List the differences between the law and the promise – how it's given and what it can and can't do. **Law cannot set aside the promise/covenant, inheritance does not depend on law, added because of sin, law not opposed to promise. God gave promise through grace, inheritance depends on promise, promise is given through faith in Jesus.**

Compare and Contrast

Compare Galatians 3:22 with Romans 7:1-13. **Purpose of the law.**

GALATIANS 3:23-29

Gather the Clues

1. What is the ultimate purpose of the law? **Galatians 3:24 to lead us to Christ.**

2. What four things happen when you have faith in Christ? **Sons of God, clothed with Christ, one in Christ, belong to Christ, Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 3:27 and Romans 13:14 and Ephesians 4:22-24. **Being clothed with Christ.**

GALATIANS 4:1-7

Gather the Clues

1. Why did God send His Son to earth? **To redeem those under the law and make them sons with full rights.**

2. What does Paul say about who the Galatians were previously and who they are now? **Were a slave, now a son.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 4:6-7 with Romans 8:15-17. **Heirs and sons**

GALATIANS 4:8-20

Gather the Clues

1. Why does Paul fear that he has wasted his effort on the Galatians? **Fears that they are turning back to the law.**

2. From this section what can we tell about how the Galatians related to Paul when he first presented the gospel to them and now when they are returning to legalism? **Welcomed Paul and were giving and joyful. Now they are enslaved again, lost their joy, and treat Paul as their enemy.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 4:16 with Amos 5:10, Proverbs 27:6 and 24:26. **Don't despise one who tells truth.**

GALATIANS 4:21-31

Gather the Clues

1. In verse 21 what does Paul say the Galatians want? **To be under the law.**

2. What does it mean that we are children of the free woman? **Born as a result of the promise, basis for sonship status.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 4:23 with Genesis 16:1-4, 13-16 and 21:1-13. **Hagar and Sarah**



Galatians 3:15–4:31

SONS OF THE PROMISE

Key Verse

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Review

1. Review your notes from the previous week. What encouraged you? Challenged you?

Galatians 3:15-22

2. As we saw in this section, the law helps us understand sin. Discuss with the group a sin you've seen in your life this week and how God provides for your sin through Christ.

Galatians 3:23-29

3. As a believer, you are clothed with Christ. Read Galatians 3:27 and Ephesians 4:22-23 out loud. In what way have you put off sin and put on the new self this week?

Galatians 4:1-7

4. What did you learn this week as you considered what Romans 8:15-17 was saying? **Heirs and sons.** In what ways are you living in fear as a slave or living as an heir?

Galatians 4:8-20

5. Who in your life is a truth teller who will speak truth into your life when you need it (Galatians 4:15-16)?

Galatians 4:21-31

6. Do you personally want to live as one under the law? (Galatians 4:21.) Why or why not?

Case Study:

7. You have been asked to teach a class on Galatians 3:15-4:31 on the role of the law. What are three points that you would emphasize?

The law: 1. is holy (Romans 7:12, Galatians 3:21); 2. is our tutor, pointing us to Christ (Galatians 3:19, 24); and 3. reveals the character of God.



Galatians 5–6

Read Galatians 5 - 6

GALATIANS 5:1-15

Gather the Clues

1. How were the Galatians seeking to be justified by the law?
Through circumcision.

2. How does their attempt to be justified by the law affect their relationship with Christ? **It alienates them from Christ— Galatians 5:4.**

3. According to Galatians 5:13, what were we called to? **Freedom.** What warning does Paul give? **Don't turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 5:1-15 and Ephesians 2:11-13 **Additional discussion of circumcision.**

GALATIANS 5:16-26

Gather the Clues

1. If we live by the Spirit, what happens to our sinful nature?
You will not carry out the desires of the flesh. See verse 16.

2. List the deeds of the flesh. **Galatians 5:19-21.**

3. List the fruit of the Spirit. **Galatians 5:22-23.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 5:16-23 and Colossians 3:5-11 **Freedom through the Holy Spirit.**

GALATIANS 6:1-5

Gather the Clues

1. According to Paul, what is the responsibility of those who are “spiritual”? **Restore those living in sin.**

2. What two instructions does Paul give to those who are “spiritual”? **Restore in a spirit of gentleness and pay close attention to yourself so that you are not tempted.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15-17 **Principles of restoration.**

GALATIANS 6:6-10

Gather the Clues

1. In this context, what does it mean that God is not mocked?
In our stewardship actions have consequences. God's justice will be satisfied.

2. What incentive does Paul give for us not to lose heart in doing good? **In due time we shall reap a reward.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 6:9 and 1 Corinthians 15:58 **Persevere—our toil is not in vain in the Lord.**

GALATIANS 6:11-18

Gather the Clues

1. How does Paul characterize those who value the law over grace? **Boast in the wrong things.**

2. In what does Paul boast? Why? **The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Compare and Contrast

Galatians 6:14 and Galatians 2: 20 and 1 Corinthians 2:2 **Dying to the cross; becoming a new creation in Christ.**

Galatians 5–6

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Key Verse

Galatians 5:13: For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another.

Review

1. Review your notes from the previous week. What encouraged you? Challenged you?

Galatians 5:1-15

2. In Galatians 5:1, Paul tells us why Christ set us free. What has Christ set you free from? To what things do you continually find yourself enslaved? **Lifestyle, reputation, relationship, career, status, addiction, other sins.**

Galatians 5:16-26

3. Since living by the Spirit is contrary to our human nature, as described by Paul in verses 16-18, how can we intentionally make ourselves available to the Spirit? **Desire to hear the Spirit. Spend time in God's Word and in prayer. Live in biblical community. Be ready to obey God's Word. Pray for discernment between our feelings and His prompting.**

Galatians 6:1-5

4. In Galatians 6:1, Paul encourages us to restore one another if we are caught in sin. How do we do that? **Give examples of how to do that gently and humbly, carefully choosing your words.**

Galatians 6:6-10

5. Paul reminds us that we reap what we sow and then he implores us to not give up in verse 9. Why do we, as Christians, often become weary in doing good and discouraged in waiting for the Lord's proper time for harvest? **Perhaps because the harvest does not come in our time. Perhaps because we are serving so that we may receive the harvest instead of serving for the joy of serving.**

Galatians 6:11-18

6. Paul tells us that as a new creation in Christ, we have nothing to boast about except the cross. What does the world tempt you to boast about? **Good works; tithing amount; acts of service.)** How can you die to the world and give glory to God instead? **(Celebrate these things with only God.**

Case Study

7. Over the past few months, you have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with your next-door neighbors who seem very active in their church. Since you want your children (who are the same age as your neighbors') to play in healthy, safe environments, you have been trying to get a read on their spiritual maturity. Generally speaking, they are very nice people with many kind things to say about people you both know, but every once in a while you seem to glimpse a moment of the "real" person. They will speak harshly to one of their children or make a wise crack about another mutual friend. What is your role in this situation? What do you use as a guide in interacting with them?

When we are not motivated by love, the unity of believers is broken. (Galatians 5:14-15) Go to them in love. Start a conversation by telling them how you struggle with the following verses sometimes: Galatians 5:16-23. Ask for their opinion and how they pursue the Spirit. Is there evidence of fruit of the Spirit or transformation in their lives? Can you get a read on their understanding of the Spirit and His presence in our lives? Although our job is not to judge others' spiritual conditions, we are implored by Paul in Galatians to restore our brothers who are caught in sin—even the less obvious kind (Galatians 6:1).

Other verses for consideration:

**Titus 3:4-7: Great summation of God's "plan" for us if they seem unsure.
Ezekiel 36:26: Are they operating with a new heart and a new spirit?
2 Corinthians 5:17: Are they a new creation in Christ?
Colossians 2:8: A warning about allowing others to captivate you.
1 Samuel 16:7: The condition of our hearts is more important than appearances.**



1 Thessalonians 1-2

Read 1 Thessalonians 1-2

1 THESSALONIANS 1

Gather the Clues

1. Describe how Paul was received in Thessalonica. See Acts 17:1-7. **Some were persuaded and joined Paul, along with a large group of God-fearing Gentiles and quite a few prominent women. Others formed a mob to attack Paul.**

2. What does Paul mean when he says in 1 Thessalonians 1:6, "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord . . ." **The Thessalonians imitated the Lord and apostles because they joyfully responded to the gospel in spite of affliction.**

Compare and Contrast

1 Thessalonians 1:6 with 1 Corinthians 11:1. **Paul tells everyone (Corinthians) to be imitators of him (Paul) just as he imitates Christ. We should all be imitators of Christ.**

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Gather the Clues

1. How was Paul treated in Philippi? **Acts 16:16-24. He was beaten and thrown in jail after he cast a demon out of a slave girl.**

2. What accusations was Paul responding to in 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6? **That his appeal was on the basis of error, impurity, deceit, flattering speech, greed, seeking glory from people.**

3. What evidence does Paul cite to refute the accusations? **God is his witness; Paul is gentle; he has shared his life; worked day and night so he would not be a burden.**

4. What metaphors does Paul use to describe his relationship with the Thessalonians? **1 Thessalonians 2:7—nursing mother; 1 Thessalonians 2:11—father.** What does that tell you about Paul's relationship with the Thessalonians? **Loved them as family.**

Compare and Contrast

1 Thessalonians 2:7 and Galatians 4:19. **Nursing mother compared to mother undergoing birth (labor) pains.**

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-20

Gather the Clues

1. What two things have the Thessalonians done that caused Paul constantly to thank God? **Received Paul's message as a message from God and became imitators of God's churches by enduring suffering well.**

2. In becoming imitators of God's churches, what other examples of enduring suffering well are the Thessalonians following? **The Lord Jesus, the prophets, and Paul himself—1 Thessalonians 2:15.**

3. What does Paul say will be the consequences for those who are persecuting the Thessalonians? **Displeasing to God, constantly fill up their measure of sins, wrath has come upon them completely—1 Thessalonians 2:15-16.**

Compare and Contrast

1 Thessalonians 2:14-15 and Revelation 2:8-11. **Suffering churches and our hope.**



1 Thessalonians 1-2

LABOR OF LOVE

Key Verse

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3: We thank God always for all of you as we mention you constantly in our prayers, because we recall in the presence of our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Review

1. Review your notes from the previous week. What encouraged you? Challenged you?

1 Thessalonians 1

2. Recall how Paul applauded the Thessalonians for being imitators of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 1:6) and their endurance of hope in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Has your faith in Christ affected the way you respond to hard times? Give a specific example.

3. In 1 Thessalonians 1:9, Paul said that the Thessalonians had turned from idols to serve the living and true God. Do you have any idols? **Money, reputation, your career, your home, your car, your clothes, your appearance / body image?** How would someone know if they were making something an idol?

4. Is there any area of sin in your life in which you need to follow the Thessalonians' example by turning away from it and turning to God? (1 Thessalonians 1:9.)

1 Thessalonians 2

5. Paul likens himself to a "nursing mother" and a "father" in 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11. Are you a "spiritual parent" to anyone? Are you helping someone else grow in Christ? Describe who that is in your life. How can you become a spiritual parent?

6. Paul said that the Thessalonians were his "crown" (1 Thessalonians 2:18). Who will your "crown(s)" be? Have you affected anyone's life because of your words or actions like Paul affected the Thessalonians?

Case Study

7. A couple of co-workers have noticed that you are a Christian. They seem to be interested and seeking Christ, but say that they think churches are full of hypocrites and have "crooks" for leaders. What Scripture can you share with your friends to help them identify the characteristics of godly churches? What would those characteristics be?

1 Thessalonians 1:2-11. Christians should have the courage to declare the gospel of God in spite of it being unpopular; give a message that does not come from error or with deceit, but is approved by God (biblically based); preach the gospel not to please people but God; not use flattering speech; not be greedy; not seek glory from people; be like a nursing mother caring for her own children with affection; be happy to share not only the gospel, but their own lives with nonbelievers; work hard (steward money well); treat others as a father treats his own children with encouragement; and insist that others live in a way glorifying to God.



1 Thessalonians 3–5

Read 1 Thessalonians 3-5

1 THESSALONIANS 3

Gather the Clues

1. Why did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians? What was Timothy’s mission? **To strengthen and encourage the Thessalonians about their faith.**

2. Why was Paul concerned about the Thessalonians? **1 Thessalonians 3:5—Concerned they may have been tempted and fallen away from their faith.**

3. What reassured Paul about the Thessalonians? **Timothy’s report in 1 Thessalonians 3:6.**

4. What did Paul do in response to the report he heard about the Thessalonians? **He thanked God for them and prayed that: a) he would be able to visit them again, b) their love for one another would increase, and c) that their hearts would be strengthened in holiness.**

Compare and Contrast

Compare 1 Thessalonians 3:8 with other Scriptures that encourage believers to stand firm in their faith. Start with 1 Corinthians 16:13 and see if you can find at least 5 other exhortations in Paul’s letters to “stand firm.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

Gather the Clues

1. Name two purposes of Paul’s instructions to the Thessalonians in this passage **How to live and to please God. 1 Thessalonians 4:1.**

2. What is God’s will for the Thessalonians? **Become holy, keep away from sexual immorality, possess your own body in honor and holiness, and don’t take advantage of others. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7.**

3. What specific things does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to do to love one another more and more? **Aspire to lead a quiet life, to attend to your own business, and to work. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.**

Compare and Contrast

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 with John 13:34-35. **People will know that we are Christ’s disciples by our love for one another.**

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Gather the Clues

1. What is the basis for our hope when a believer dies? **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-15—Jesus’ resurrection.**

2. What is the order of events in the Rapture? **The Lord comes down from heaven with a shout of command, the dead in Christ rise first, then we who are alive will suddenly be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him always.**

3. Why did Paul share this information with the Thessalonians? **"[E]ncourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:18.**

Compare and Contrast

Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 with John 10:27-28 & 14:1-3. **Great eternal security passages!**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Gather the Clues

1. What is the difference between the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and the "day of the Lord" mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:2? **The Rapture precedes and is the triggering event for the Tribulation that culminates in the Day of the Lord, which is also known as the Second Coming of Christ.**

2. How does Paul tell the Thessalonians to stay alert today for coming day of the Lord? **Put on the breastplate of faith and love, the helmet of our hope of salvation, encourage and build up each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11.**

Compare and Contrast

1 Thessalonians 5:6 with Mark 13:32-37 **Christ's exhortation to stay alert.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

Gather the Clues

1. What are at least ten commands given in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22?

2. How often does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to pray? **Constantly.**

3. How does Paul urge the Thessalonians to be thankful? **In everything, not for everything.**

Compare and Contrast

Compare 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 with Exodus 20:3-17. **New Testament commands for believers and Old Testament Ten Commandments.**



1 Thessalonians 3-5

BLAMELESS BEFORE OUR GOD

Key Verse

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13: And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you, so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Review

1. Review your notes from the previous week. What encouraged you? Challenged you?

1 Thessalonians 3

2. What did you learn from Paul's prayers for the Thessalonians about praying for others? Is there someone in your life for whom you are praying "earnestly night and day"? **Give thanks to God joyously, pray earnestly night and day, pray specifically, ask the Lord to do big things in lives of those you pray for.**

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

3. What does 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 say about God's will for believers? **Become holy, keep away from sexual immorality, possess your own body in honor and holiness, and don't take advantage of others.** What did God teach the Thessalonians about loving one another? **Practice it towards all the brothers and sisters, lead a decent life before outsiders.**

4. How can you do "more and more" to love one another, like God taught the Thessalonians? See 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

5. It is always difficult to know what to say to a friend upon the death of the friend's family member. How can you use the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 to comfort friends who have lost family members who were believers in Christ? How can you comfort a friend who has lost a family member who did not know Christ? **Encourage believer's family member with the promise of 1 Thessalonians 4: 17 that we will see them again and that we will be together with them and with the Lord always. Encourage an unbeliever's family member with the fact that God is good, and He is fair. Use the opportunity to ensure that the nonbeliever's family member is aware of the need to make a decision about Christ's free gift of salvation.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

6. How can we stay alert to be ready for Christ's return? What does this look like on a daily basis? **Study the Word, pray for others, tell others about Christ, live in biblical community, be obedient to Christ's commands, and love one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

7. Go around the room and have each member of the group share:

- Which one of Paul's commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 do you do a good job of following faithfully and how you do it?

- Which one of the commands do you have a hard time following faithfully and why?

Case Study

8. A friend notices your Bible one day and tells you, “I have heard about the Left Behind books and about this thing called the Second Coming of Christ, but I find it just too fantastic to believe. Do you really believe in the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ?” How would you respond to your friend to explain your beliefs about the Rapture and Second Coming? What Scriptures would you share with your friend?

Use it as an opportunity to share the gospel. Find the real barriers to belief for the person. God is just. He makes it clear in many Scriptures that He will judge the world for its deeds (Revelation 20:12), that there is none righteous (Romans 3:10, 23), and that the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in His Son (Romans 6:23). Use 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Thessalonians 2, and what The Lord said in Matthew 24:36-44 about His Second Coming. Either the Second Coming is real, or Christ is a liar.
