

Galatians—Grace Above the Law
Our Freedom in Christ

LESSON 2—Galatians 1.11-24

Continuing from our last study...

Prayer

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times.

Scripture Meditation/Memorization

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.”*

Use the suggested verse(s) to meditate on during the course of this week's study.

Memory Verse

*“[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.”—Galatians 1:3-4 (ESV)*

Galatians 1:11-15—Paul's Conversion

1. In research there is a great deal of emphasis on whether a researcher used primary (eyewitness) or secondary (based on someone else's account) sources. From this passage, what was the source of Paul's gospel?

2. Talk about the ultimate makeover. How did Paul describe his life prior to conversion in the following verses?

a. Galatians 1:11-14

b. Philippians 3:4-6

3. How did Paul view his pedigree as a Pharisee following his conversion according to Philippians 3:7-9?

4. Paul says that God had set him apart for his ministry before he was born. Describe similar ordinations in the life of the following saints: [

a. Luke 1:13-17

b. Jeremiah 1:5

c. Isaiah 49:1

d. Romans 9:11-13

e. What do we learn about God, His sovereignty (in absolute control of all events), and His immutability (unchanging character) from these scriptures above?

Galatians 1:15-24—Paul's Calling

Scot McKnight, in his commentary on Galatians, speaks of the earmarks of a true conversion. Citing studies done by sociologists, as well as Scripture, McKnight calls the preeminent sign of a true conversion the autobiographical reconstruction of the convert. (Can you tell he's a college professor?) This means that a convert tells his or her life story in a new way; what mattered most before conversion now holds little importance, while what did not matter before conversion is now of central importance in the life of the convert. This could not be any truer than in the life of Paul.

1. What do we learn about God's specific calling and ministry for Paul based upon Galatians 1:15-16 and Acts 26:15-17?

2. Why do you think Paul emphasized that he received the gospel completely independent from any input from Jesus' disciples?

3. Most of the people in the churches had not yet met Paul following his conversion.

a. What did they know of the changes in Paul's life as a result of meeting Jesus?

b. When others hear of our conversion experience and the changes it has made in our lives, what should the ultimate result be according to verse 24?

4. *Recall the time you came to faith in Christ.¹

a. If this happened in adult life, how do you see yourself as different today than before your conversion?

¹ Question taken from The Message of Galatians, The Bible Speaks Today commentary, Inter-Varsity Press-USA, 1986

b. What evidence would friends and family have that your conversion was true?

5. *What are the biggest changes which knowing Christ has brought about in your life?²

Lesson 1 and 2 Summary/ Take Away

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would likely be, “What did you learn?” We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

² Question taken from The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Galatians, published by David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2010

Tool Box

Step 1: The Bible. Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation*. To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *English Standard Version*, *New American Standard Bible* or *New King James Version*.

Step 2: Study Tools. Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary, 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. (recommend both David Guzick and Chuck Smith's commentaries/study notes); Word Studies: 1) Zodhiates' *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, 2) Vine's *Complete Expository Dictionary*, and 3) Strong's *Dictionary of Bible Words*.

Step 3: Commentaries. Commentaries should not be used in place of studying God's Word directly, but they can give you additional insights. Some good commentaries include: Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, F.F. Bruce, *the Expositors Bible Commentary*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (edited by Walvoord & Zuck), *the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, and William Barclay (*great for background and culture, but be careful of his spiritual applications).

Step 4: Online Assistance. Should you have a specific question about the study please e-mail your inquiry to: mannyqwcm@gmail.com

A Timeline of Paul's Missionary Work and Writings

This timeline shows the major events of Paul's life and the approximate date of his Epistles.

<i>Paul's Letters</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Events</i>
	35	35 Martyrdom of Stephen—Acts 7:57 35 Saul's Conversion—Acts 9:1
		35-38 Arabian Sojourn—Gal. 1:17 fits into Acts 9:23 (many days)
		38 Visit to Jerusalem—Acts 9:26
	40	38-43 Ministry in Syria and Cilicia—Acts 9:30 and Gal. 1:21
		43 Arrival in Antioch—Acts 11:25 43/44 Famine Visit—Acts 11:27
	45	
GALATIANS From Antioch 48/49		46-48 Paul's First Missionary Journey—Acts 13 and 14 49/50 Jerusalem conference—Acts 15 and Gal. 2:1
	50	50-52 Paul's Second Missionary Journey—Acts 15 through Acts 18 51/52 Before Gallio—Acts 18:12 52 Return to Antioch—Acts 18:22
1st CORINTHIANS From Ephesus 55	55	53-57 Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Acts 18 through Acts 21 53-55 In Ephesus—Acts 19
2nd CORINTHIANS From Macedonia 55/56		
		57 Arrested in Jerusalem—Acts 21
ROMANS From Cenchera or Corinth 57		57-59 Imprisoned in Caesarea—Acts 28
EPHESIANS, COLOSSIANS, & PHILEMON From Rome 60	60	59 Shipwrecked—Acts 23 59-61/62 First Roman Imprisonment—Acts 28
PHILIPPIANS From Rome 61		
		62-67 Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey—Titus 1:5
1st TIMOTHY & TITUS From Philippi 63-65	65	
		67/68 Second Roman Imprisonment—2 nd Tim. 4:6-8 68 Trial and Execution
2nd TIMOTHY From Mamertine Dungeon (2 nd Tim. 4:6) 68		

