

Galatians: The Book of Freedom

The Magna Carta of the New Testament

Introduction

Background: Paul, during his first missionary journey (46-48 A.D.) along with Barnabas, established churches in the Roman province of Galatia (Ac 13:14-14:23). It was in these churches that several false apostles snuck in to spy on the newfound freedom the converts had in Jesus Christ (Ga 2:4). They then began teaching a perverted gospel, the adherence to the Jewish law, which included circumcision, as a means to justification. Paul brings swift correction with great clarity; to oppose the efforts of the flesh and confirm that through it was by faith in Jesus Christ alone, that man could be saved.

The Audience: Letters written to the Churches in Galatia

Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians in Rome around 68 AD. It was written to a group of churches that were located in a province of Asia Minor. Galatia was not a city as many assume but an area, which is now southern Turkey.

Paul addresses his readers and the issues head on. He brings quick correction to the foolishness of deserting the Gospel of grace. The Galatians were fickle, back-siding, following after Judaizers and confusing the freedom they now had in Christ, with the Jewish laws of the Old Covenant.

Paul addresses his readers and the issues head on. These congregations were full of new converts who were unstable and not yet grounded, therefore a breeding ground for persuaders of the Jewish traditionalist camps. Paul brings quick correction to the foolishness of deserting the gospel of grace. The Galatians were fickle, back-siding, following after Judaizers and confusing the freedom they now had in Christ, with the need to adhere to the Jewish laws of the Old Covenant. There is no other gospel, Paul makes that perfectly clear. The Jewish traditionalists were questioning Paul's authority by using false propaganda, that he had heard the Gospel second hand. He vindicates his apostleship. Paul defends the Gospel, and he also defends his apostleship. Paul wants his readers to understand the sufficiency of the Cross and to cast off the legalistic teachings of the Judaizers.

3 Main Concerns:

1. Whether non-Jewish believers must enter into the Christian fellowship by means of the constraints of Judaism and its covenantal mark of circumcision.
In other words, were the Old Testament laws still binding on Christians?
2. Did Paul have legitimate apostolic authority to teach and preach?
3. As believers, we must understand our freedom and liberty in Christ and stand in it.

Paul's Assertion

1. Salvation is based in belief in Christ alone.
2. Salvation is not based on obedience to the Law
3. Christians were already free and should not submit to bondage again, but stand firm in their freedom.
4. Law vs Grace, Works vs Flesh, Bondage vs Freedom, falling from grace vs standing in grace

Chapter 1: Deserting Freedom

1. Can an individual who has heard the Gospel fall into believing another gospel?
Vs 1:6
2. To whom did Apostle Paul write this letter?
Vs 1
3. Who was being deserted?
Vs. 6
4. What does it mean to preach a different gospel?
Vs. 8
5. What did Paul pronounce over those who pervert the gospel? Vs 9
6. How did Paul receive the message of the Gospel?
Vs 12
7. Who was Apostle Paul before his calling?
Vs 14
8. What does Paul say regarding seeking the favor of man, or trying to please man?
Vs 10
9. When was Paul called into ministry and who called Him? Vs 16
10. What did Paul do immediately after his calling and whom did he see there?
Vs 17, Vs 19

Key Points:

- a. Paul's Apostleship Challenged:
He was sent by _____ and not by _____
Apostle used in a broad sense (Acts 14:14), (Eph 4:11)
Church founders (Acts 1:21-26)
- b. Divine Appointments of God:

c. Grace is:

- It is a force or action, as well as a favor.
- It is the perfection of our imperfections through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.
- Undeserved blessing...a free gift
- It is the merciful and compassionate gift God gives to His people
- Strong's #5485 charis (khar-ece)
- From the root word chara---joy, and chairō "to rejoice"
- Charis--- grace causes rejoicing
- God's unmerited favor
- Undeserved kindness, unconditional, unearned, acceptance through Jesus Christ

We are saved by grace, kept by grace, flourish in grace, and refined in grace.
(Ro 5:8) (Rom 5:1-2) (II Cor. 9:8)

d. Christ Centered message: Victory over sin

(Gal 2:20-21) (3:1, 13), (4:4,) (5:1 11, 24) (6:12, 14)

e. The Purpose of the Cross:

To rescue us for this present evil
Basic principles of this world 4:3, 9
Sets the prisoner free 3:23

f. Deserting the Gospel for another gospel: 1:6

g. Those who follow a different gospel are _____
Vs. 8 & vs9

Paul's ministry call:

Called by God vs. 1:1
Sent by God vs. 1:1
Set apart vs. 15
Called from his mothers womb v15s
Received by revelation vs. 12
God revealed His Son, so that Paul would preach to the Gentiles vs. 16
He did not consult with flesh and blood Vs. 16
Unknown to the Churches except as a persecutor of Christians vs. 22
His preaching brought glory to God vs. 24
He was approved and acknowledged by the council.

Application:

1. To identify what is false, you must know, study, and understand what is real.
2. Individuals can be tricked into following false beliefs if they are not grounded in the Word of God.

3. A true ministry call can only come from God, and will always start with God.
4. God will also have the proper authority to acknowledge a true ministry call.
5. A perverted gospel is being preached in some mainstream churches today:
Such as homosexual marriage, ordination of homosexuals, etc... and Paul gives a double condemnation. They are ACURSED.
6. There can be absolutely no compromise when it comes to the true gospel: no room for gray areas. (2 Cor 11:13-15; Col 2:8)
7. Jesus plus nothing for salvation.
8. You can please God or man, but rarely both, and Paul teaches us that we must decide who we are going to please if we want to be a bondservant of God. You may be unpopular or even shunned.

Key Words

1. **Sent** : *And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" NIV (Ro 10:15)*
 - Sent through Jesus and God
 - To Share the Gospel
 - Raised Jesus from the dead
 - Jesus gave Himself for our sin
 - So that He might deliver us from this evil present age 1:4
 - According to God's will
2. **Different Gospel**
 - Perverted Gospel
 - Heresy: Some do not preach the Bible as "ALL TRUTH", but as "some truth"
 - A gospel contrary to what we have preached
3. **Accursed**
 - Those who preach a different gospel
 - Even if Paul or the angels were to preach contrary to the true Gospel message, let him be accursed.
4. **Man-pleasing vs God-pleasing**
 - If man-pleasing, you cannot be a bondservant of Christ
5. **Revelation**: *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, NASV (I Cor 2:12)*
 - Paul: called, sent, and set apart
 - Persecutor of the Church
 - Tried to destroy the Church
 - Advancing in Judaism
 - Zealous for traditions
 - Yet given the Gospel by revelation, despite these things listed above

6. **Set apart:** *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."* Jer 1:5 (NIV)
 - From the mothers womb
 - God revealed His Son to Paul
 - Paul did not seek approval from man, instead validation from God was given

7. **Unknown**
 - Unknown by the churches as a preacher
 - Known by the churches as a persecutor
 - Now preaching the faith he once set out to destroy

Chapter 2: The Big Dispute

1. Where did Paul go, by revelation, at this time? How long had he waited before going?
Vs. 1
2. Why did he go to Jerusalem?
Vs 3
3. What part did Titus' state of being or "condition" play in the dispute?
Vs 11
4. Why did false brethren come in? Vs 4
5. High reputation meant nothing to Paul. Why?
Vs 6
6. What was Paul asked to do and what was his attitude in doing so?
Vs 10
7. Was Peter in the wrong according to Paul, when he held himself aloof and whom did he fear? Why
Vs 10, vs. 14
8. Define justification. How are we justified?
Vs 16
9. How should those who are justified live?
Vs 20
10. As believers, we die to the Law so that we might live in _____?
Vs 19
11. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? Vs. 20

12. If righteousness comes through the Law, what would that indicate regarding the crucifixion of Christ? Vs. 21

Applications:

1. Three things the Law cannot do: vs. 3-5
 - It cannot impart the Holy Spirit.
 - It cannot bring man into perfection.
 - It cannot bring about miracles.
2. Understand the freedom we have in Christ. It will bring joy and peace.
- b. Justification comes through faith in Jesus Christ and not through the works of the law, or flesh.
- c. Peter was called to the Jews. Paul was called to the Gentiles. We are called to the world.
- d. Peter was here, an example of how our walk can influence people for good or for bad. Hypocrisy is a destroyer of faith for the on-looker.
- e. By the works of the Law, no flesh will be justified, no matter how good you are.
- f. Believers are saved by faith, they live by faith, and they die with Christ, by faith.
- g. If righteousness comes through the Law, Christ died for nothing.

Key Words

1. Revelation

- Went to Jerusalem by revelation, not out of compulsion
- Submitted to the council, the Gospel Paul preached

2. Circumcision

- Jewish tradition as a means of identification with God
- Titus was not compelled to be circumcised

3. False Brethren: *But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.* NRSV James 1:25

- Infiltrated, to spy on their freedom
- To bring them into bondage
- Did not yield to the imposters

4. Entrusted with the Gospel

- Peter to the circumcised-Jews
- Paul to the uncircumcised-Gentile
- James, Peter, and John gave the right hand of the fellowship to Paul and Barnabas
- Also, reminded them to remember the poor

5. Hypocrisy

- Peter and Paul in opposition (2:11-13)
- Peter refuses to eat with the Gentiles after the arrival of James group shows up
- Barnabas refuses to eat with the Gentiles
- Paul asks the question, “If you being a Jew lives like a Gentile, then how can you compel a Gentile to live like a Jew?”

6. **Justification:** *For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Ro 4:2-3 NASV*

- We are not justified through works of the Law
- Justified through faith in Jesus Christ alone
- Crucified with Christ
- “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (2:20)
- Righteousness does not come through the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ
- Not a contradiction: if you believe by faith, you will also live by faith, therefore, your flesh will no longer rule you-FREEDOM

for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. Ro 2:13 NASB

Chapter 3: Faith, Righteousness, and the Law

1. What was Paul’s rhetorical (in that Paul knew the answer) question to the Galatians? Vs. 1
2. How does one receive the Spirit? By works of the Law, or by the hearing of faith? Vs 2
3. Who is actually justified? Vs. 6
4. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him, as what? Vs 6
5. Believers, Sons of Abraham, are also accounted as having righteousness through _____. Vs 7
6. All who strive for salvation through works are under the curse of the Law. Why? Vs 10
7. How shall the just or righteous live? Vs 11

8. Who redeemed us from the curse of the Law? Vs 13
9. The blessing of Abraham came to us through Jesus Christ that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through _____? Vs 14
10. How was this covenant confirmed? Vs 17
11. Is our inheritance by the law or by the promise? Vs 18
12. Law was our schoolmaster pointing out our sin but bringing us unto Christ, so that we are justified by _____? Vs 24
13. Being baptized in Christ means putting on Christ, being Abrahams seed, and heirs to the promise, because we have faith in _____. Vs 26
14. Who is considered to be “blessed with Abraham?”
Vs. 9
15. List several reasons why they are “blessed with Abraham.”
Vs. 10
16. What is the purpose of the law? Vs 15
17. Who are considered to be sons of God? Vs 26
18. What does it mean to “put on Christ?”

7 Blessings for Christians found here:

1. Children of God Vs 26
2. Baptized into Christ Vs 27
3. Put on Christ Vs 27
4. Equal and one in Christ Vs 28
5. Belong to Christ vs. 29, 5:24
6. Abrahams spiritual seed vs. 29
7. Heirs according to the promise Vs 29

We were children under bondage to the Law, but Christ came and redeemed us from the Law that we might become Sons of God and free from the burdensome Law.

Application

1. We receive the Spirit by hearing, believing, and receiving by faith.

2. Gentiles are justified by faith. Vs 9
3. Those of the faith are blessed with Abraham so that we receive the promises of the Spirit by faith. Vs 14
4. The promise of salvation came 430 years before the law. Vs 17
5. The Law was:
 - Added because of transgressions.
 - It was ordained of angels.
 - It is not contrary to the promises of God. Vs 21
 - It is not in opposition to the freedom we have in Christ, but points to it.
 - It cannot impart life or righteousness. Vs 21
 - It has been our tutor, which shows us our desperate need for Christ.
6. Since we are baptized with Christ and clothed with Christ,
We are also seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
7. Jesus leveled the playing field- we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Key Words

1. Bewitched

- How did you receive the Spirit: by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?
- If you began in the Spirit, would you then be perfected in the flesh-NO

2. Righteousness by faith

- Abraham believed and it was counted as righteousness
- Gentiles: justified by God through faith (3:8)
- Righteous shall live by faith (3:11)

3. Cursed

- Those who attempt to find salvation through works of the Law
- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law
- Cursed is everyone who tries to keep the Law as a means of salvation

4. Blessed

- All nations shall be blessed in Abraham 3:8
- In Jesus, the blessings of Abraham might come to the Gentiles
- The Promise came 430 years before the Law
- The inheritance is based on the promise 3:18
- The Abrahamic Covenant was given to the spiritual Jerusalem, through Jesus Christ-the true descendants of Abraham, (not every Jew)

5. **The Law:** *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal*

mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Ro 8:3-8 NKJV

- Added because of transgressions
- Ordained through angels by agency of a mediator
- Until the see, “Jesus Christ” should come, to who the promise had been made
- Jesus bridges the gap
- Before Jesus, man was kept inder custody of the Law (3:23-24)
- It was a tutor, pointing to and leading us to Christ
- It cannot impart life

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, I Tim 2:5 (NKJV)

6. Sons of God

- Through faith in Jesus
- Baptized into Christ
- Clothed with Christ
- All one in Christ 3:27
- Belongs to Christ

Chapter 4: Sons and Heirs

1. Paul explains “Sonship” and becoming an heir. If an heir, but still a child, he is no different than a slave, even though he is the owner of everything. How does this equate to an immature, uninformed believer? Vs 1
2. We were in bondage under the _____
Vs 3
3. When was the “Fullness of Time” Jesus, Son of God- addresses His _____
Born of a woman addresses His _____
4. His subjection to the _____, which fulfills all righteousness.
5. God redeemed us, all those under the law by means of _____
Vs 5 by making us His _____
6. Our inner witness bears witness with His Spirit when we can cry _____
Vs. 6
7. What did God put in our heart so that we might know Him?
Vs 6, Vs 7
8. If no longer a slave, but a son, then you are also an _____.

9. What does Paul warn believers not to do?
Vs. 9
10. What were you?
Vs 8 & 9
11. It was because of a _____ that Paul first preached to the Galatians.
Vs 13
12. Paul asked the question, “Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?” and goes on to say that those who preach another gospel are trying to solicit them as followers. How is this still applicable for today?
Vs 16-17
13. Allegory: Vs 21-31
 - Two women, two covenants
 - A bondswoman Hagar, and a free woman Sarah
 - A daughter of the law
 - A daughter of the promise
 - Flesh vs. Spirit: born of the flesh, born of the Spirit
 - Present Jerusalem
 - Future Jerusalem

The main point: The bondswoman will not be heir with the freewoman.
You must be born from above.

14. Paul labored so diligently so that the members there would reflect _____?
Vs 19

Application

1. You are either an heir or a slave, in bondage or free.
2. Believers have been adopted into the family of God and God is now your true Father.
3. Believers can confidently call God, father, daddy Abba Father.
4. Believers know God and are known by God
5. God may use trials, tribulation, or even illnesses to open up a door for ministry opportunities.
6. There are cults, claiming to be Christians but are not, such as Mormonism.
We know immediately, how?
7. Which is easier, believing by faith or keeping the law? This can be one of the most powerful witnessing tools in your toolbox.

Key Words

1. Heir and son

- Being under the Law is like an heir when he is a minor subject to guardians
- Being under the Law is like being a slave
- When you did not know God you were a slave to sin
- Now that you know God or are known by God, you are freed from the power of sin
- Redeemed by Jesus, adopted as sons

The positional stance of a Christian's life:

- Were saved-justified
- Being saved-sanctified
- Will be saved-glorified

2. Elements

- Weak beggardly spirits
- Spirits of animistic or demonic dimension
- Demonic-evil spirits use ritual of the law to enslave and condemn

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col 2:8

3. Adoption

- No longer a slave but a son and if a son, then an heir
- Can cry "Abba, Father" (4:5-6)

4. Slave: *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Ro 8:15 (NASB)*

- Slave to sin
- Slave to elements of this world (demonic)
- Slaves to rituals, days, celebrations
- *Slave to weak beggardly spirits*

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. John 8:34

5. Bondwoman-son born of the flesh, Freewoman-son born of the Spirit

- Freedom vs slavery
- Law vs Grace
- Old Covenant vs New Covenant
- Child of the promise vs Child of the Law

Chapter 5: Children of the Free Woman

1. What does it mean, “to stand in your liberty?” Explain.
Vs. 1
2. Does Paul recommend following the Jewish custom of circumcision? Why?
Vs. 3
3. What is the total sum of the law?
Vs 13
4. What are the works of the flesh? List them.
Vs 19
5. What are the fruits of the Spirit? List them.
Vs 22
6. How should believers walk?
Vs. 25

Application:

1. Stand firm or you will not stand at all. Stand in your freedom and do not submit to a yoke of slavery. (Addictions-broken, sexual immorality-broken, thievery-broken, liars-broken, adulterers-broken)
2. Try to work your way in and Christ will be of no benefit to you, because you will be responsible to be under the whole law. Vs 5:2
3. Bottom line-Circumcision or no circumcision: Faith working through love is the answer.
4. A little leaven, leavens the whole bunch so pick those you listen to well, using a godly measure-the truth of God’s word. Vs 9
5. The whole sum of the Law is love.
6. If you walk by the Spirit, you will not carry out the deeds of the flesh.

You are either a spiritual offspring **of Sarah** or a spiritual offspring **of Hagar**

You are a child of the **Spirit** or a child of **the Flesh**

You are a child of the **Promise** or a child of **the law**

You are under a spirit of **adoption** or under a spirit of **bondage**

You are either a **slave of righteousness** or a **slave of sin**

You are either **born of the Spirit** or **born of the flesh**

You are either **led of the Spirit** or **led of the flesh**

Key Words

1. Freedom

- Christ has set us free
- Stand firm in your freedom

- If you seek to be justified by the Law then you have fallen from grace

2. Circumcision

- Under obligation to keep the whole Law
- Fallen from grace if it is used as a means of salvation
- Circumcision and non-circumcision is nothing at all, but faith working through love

3. Love

- The whole Law is fulfilled with just one word, "Love your neighbor as yourself"
- Through love, serve one another, bear one another's burdens,
- Lay down your life for your brother

4. Spirit vs Flesh

- Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the deeds of the flesh
- If led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law
- Deeds of the Spirit (5:19)
- Fruit of the Spirit (5:22)
- Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh (5:24)
- If we live by the Spirit, let us walk by the Spirit

Chapter 6: A New Creation

1. How should believers deal with a brother who has slipped?
How should you restore one caught in a trespass?
Vs 1
2. Bearing one another's burdens is fulfilling the law of _____?
What does it mean to bear one another's burdens?
Vs 2
3. We should examine ourselves. True or false? _____
Vs 4, vs. 5
4. How should believers relate to their teachers? We are to share with those who _____?
Vs 6
5. God is not mocked; a man will reap whatever he _____?
Vs 7-8
6. What does it mean to not be weary in well doing? We should continue doing good, and we are promised that if we do, we will _____

Vs 9

7. We are to do well especially to _____?
Vs 10
8. We are to follow Paul and boast in the _____?
Vs 14
9. Paul talks about being branded with marks. What is he talking about?
Vs 17

Application:

1. Be very careful how you handle someone who has fallen into sin.
2. Bear one another's burdens and you will be fulfilling the Law of Christ.
3. We all will reap what we sow, good or bad.
4. If you feed the flesh, you will reap corruption.
5. If you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life.
6. Believers should do good, especially to those of the household of faith, and their teachers.
7. Believers should boast in the works of the Cross-, the precious blood shed for our sins, and the freedom we now enjoy.
8. Paul blesses those who walk by this rule, boasting in the cross and becoming a new creation, that peace and mercy be upon them.
9. We too are marked? With the seal of the _____.

Key Words

1. Law of Christ

- Loving neighbor as yourself
- Bearing one another's burdens
- Laying down your life for one another

2. Sow and Reap: *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. I Cor 6:9-10 (NASB)*

- Sow to the flesh, reap corruption (6:7)
- Sow to the Spirit, reap eternal life

3. Bondservant: *The LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst." Ezekiel 9:4*

-the tau

- Branded
- Marks of Christ
- Christ emptied himself and took on the form of a bondservant (Phil 2:7)
- Choice of being a bondservant was as an alternative to freedom
- A slave is forced to serve but a bondservant chooses to serve
- Year of Jubilee-freedom from past debt

Key Words

Bondship

Sonship

Called

Adoption

Another gospel

Liberty, freedom

Legalism

Hypocrisy

Judaizers

Truth of the Gospel

Works vs. faith

Free vs slave

Bewitched

Justified

Accursed

False Brethren

**Free from bondage of legalism
Free from the power of sin
Free from the works of the Law
Free in Jesus Christ
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**