

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Bible Study Series: Living by Faith – Galatians

Lesson 1. Introduction to Galatians – Gal. 1:1-2

Pastor Phillip M Way

“A letter to recovering Pharisees.” – Philip Ryken

- I. Author – Paul, an Apostle
 - A. Undermining the Messenger
 - 1. They said “Not an apostle” – one of the twelve appointed by Christ
 - 2. He said, “Not from men, but Christ” – Gal. 1:15-16; see Rom. 1:1, 5; 11:13; 1 Cor. 9:1-2; 15:9; 2 Cor. 11:5; 1 Tim. 2:5-7
 - B. Undermining the Message – adding Judaism to the Gospel – Acts 15:1, 5
 - 1. To become a Christian, a Gentile must first become a Jew
 - 2. Ritual religious regularity = legalism – to live as if their salvation depended upon it
 - 3. God will do things for me based on what I do for Him
 - 4. Mistakenly basing justification upon sanctification
 - 5. Luther Quote
 - C. Paul, a Recovering Pharisee – Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:2-7
- II. To the Churches of Galatia
 - A. First Missionary Journey – Acts 13:1-14:28
 - 1. Churches planted at Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
 - 2. AD 46-48
 - 3. Jerusalem Council AD 49 – Gal. 2:1-10
 - 4. Date of letter 49/50
 - B. Paul Begins with the Gospel of Grace – Gal. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 - 1. Christ Crucified
 - 2. Christ Raised
 - 3. THE Gospel, not another gospel – Gal. 1:6
 - 4. The good news of the gospel of grace is that Jesus has already done everything necessary for our salvation
 - C. So How Do We Leave Legalism Behind? By Faith! – Gal. 2:21

Luther Quote: “I do not seek my own active righteousness. I ought to have and perform it; but I declare that even if I did have it and perform it, I cannot trust in it or stand up before the judgment of God on the basis of it. I embrace only the righteousness of Christ, which we do not perform but receive.

Cross References

Galatians 1:15-16

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace,
16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

Romans 1:1, 5

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God
5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,
6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

Romans 11:13

13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

9 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:9

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

2 Corinthians 11:5

5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.

1 Timothy 2:5-7

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Acts 15:1

15 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:5

5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

Galatians 1:13-14

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Philippians 3:2-7

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Galatians 2:1-10

2 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.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Galatians 1:6

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Galatians 2:21

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

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