

Galatians

Discovered: Paul wrote a letter to church @ Galatia

- Paul was surprised that so many were led away from God by false teachers & teachings, may false teachers be cursed.
- As a servant of Christ, I need to seek approval from God not man.
- Paul told them he was saved because of God's grace, was sought out by God. After conversion, he went to Arabia.
- 3 years later, Paul went to Jerusalem to meet w/ Peter, then went to Syria to teach. Judea rejoiced when they heard Paul was no longer persecuting believers. (it wasn't)
- 14 years later, Paul went before apostles to make sure his ministry was not in vain: spread gospel to Gentiles.
- Paul rebuked Peter for not acknowledging saved Gentiles for fear of insulting Jews (who do we please?)
- Regardless of our birth, we are saved by faith in Christ, not by deeds (old law) - promise of Abraham
- Because I was crucified w/ Christ - Christ now lives in me. If we are made righteous by the law - Christ died in vain & He did not!
- The Law was given to be a helper to sinners until Christ could come, a guardian to watch over us.
- The Abrahamic Covenant precedes the Mosaic Covenant (law) therefore the Law DOES NOT replace promise: nations who believe blessing of all
- The Law was meant to show us our sins, so that when Christ arrived, we would see how badly we needed Him & His grace.
- ALL (regardless of status, birth, nationality) who belong to Christ & accepted Him are heirs to His promise.
- We were under the Law just as children are under a guardian to learn the ropes.
- Before you knew God, you followed the world, I worry that you will return to the world & my efforts in vain.
- My affliction allowed me to tell you of Him even when it could have driven you away, you received me with honor.
- Am I your enemy because I told you the truth, don't allow false teachers to lead astray. I wish I could be w/ you.
- Abraham had 2 sons: one by slave flesh (Ishmael), one by free (Isaac) through promise. Paul compares Hagar & Sarah.
- H: current day Jerusalem: slave to sin S: future redeemed: Jerusalem living in freedom
- In Christ, we've been freed - don't return to slavery (sin) (Circumcision not required)
- If you believe, you need to follow the law to be justified then you don't believe in Christ → only faith out of love saves
- Some thought Paul taught circumcision, if so why was he still persecuted? False teachers will have consequences
- Through Christ, we've been given freedom - use it wisely: serve w/ love, act out God's examples
- Know the difference between works of flesh & fruit of the spirit.
- When others sin, we should gently steer them back. Be sure to examine ourselves for conceit. We reap what we sow, so we need to sow Christ.
- Boast in Christ's crucifixion & being a new creation in Christ - if we live this out, we receive mercy & grace.

Ephesians - We have been given every spiritual blessing by God through Christ.

- We were predestined to be adopted by Christ - we've been forgiven of our sins, given grace, sealed by Holy Spirit & given inheritance.
- Paul gives thanks that they know Jesus & prays they will be enlightened to greatness of His power - He raised Christ from dead & seated Him @ right hand & gave Him authority over all.
- Even though our sins cause our death, we are made alive through Christ & seated w/ Him. We have been saved by our faith b/c of His Grace.
- We are God's handiwork
- We were once separated, but through Christ's blood we have been brought near & become citizens in God's family & dwelling place for Holy Spirit.
- It was revealed to Paul the mystery of the gospel - that Gentiles are included heirs, his ministry to tell them.
- We are called to walk in unity - humble, patient, treat others lovingly & use our individual gifts to grow body of Christ.
- As we grow & mature in our knowledge, we are better able to proclaim truth & grow whole body.

Help me to remember:

Christ died to redeem us & by only my faith in Him, I am saved. Because I have Christ, I am to live out loud for God - in love & light, showing fruit of the Spirit.

Lord, I ask that I am able to be a beacon for Your loving kindness to those whose paths I cross in the world.

- We've been given new life: we must act like it, speak truth, don't sin out of anger, be encouraging & forgiving.
- Walk in light & love, be a beacon of light, avoid immorality & debauchery.
- Wives submit to your husband as the Church submits to Christ. Husband is the head of family as Christ is head of Church
- Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the Church - just as you love & cherish your body - do the same for your wife.
- Children obey your parents - 1st commandment w/ promise: so it goes well w/ you. Fathers don't provoke your children but instruct them about the Lord.
- Bond servants - obey your masters & serve them as if you are serving the Lord. Masters don't threaten your servants.

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for...

we've been given the tools & help to grow & mature in Christ, to be able to help grow the body of Christ.