



OIL AND WATER

Studies in Galatians

January 8, 2012

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 10, Issue 12



Setting the Record Straight Galatians 1-2



Anything of true value is worth waiting for.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

In political years a lot of false accusations are made so it is important to set the record straight. This allows evaluation based on facts, not fabrications. As the study of Galatians begins Paul, the human author, had to set the record straight about the gospel because accusations had been made that were false. The theme of Galatians is the true gospel. It had been distorted by the “Judaizers”, those who wanted to bring Christians back under the Law in order to have a complete salvation. This is was like trying to mix oil and water, for faith in Christ and keeping the Law for salvation are polar opposites. Paul showed this at first by revealing the source of the Gospel. He had been called by God as an apostle, so his message was from God by revelation. This gospel had been

give to rescue us from this present evil age through Christ, not the Law. However, the Galatians had deserted the grace approach for the works approach and this shocked Paul. He opposed this so strongly that he called down a curse on anyone who perverted the gospel in this way. He had not made salvation easier for man’s approval, but was simply speaking the message given to him by revelation; he hadn’t consulted with anyone other than Christ. The support for this gospel message was given by believers in Syria, Cilicia, Judean and even in Jerusalem by the prominent leaders there. The Judaizers had tried to cause trouble, but the Jerusalem church vouched for God’s work through Paul’s gospel message. He had to confront Peter on his hypoc-

risy at one point, but they even accepted that. Finally, Paul showed the sensibleness of the gospel. Both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law (that no one can keep). This freedom doesn’t mean that our sin is God’s fault; it is ours since having been crucified with Christ, we have died to the Law which defines sin. It is now Christ who lives in us and we live our natural lives by faith in the Son of God who from love gave His life for us. So, if we try to live by the Law we essentially nullify the grace of God which provides righteousness by faith, not works. In explaining this Paul is setting the record straight.

Study Questions for Galatians 1-2

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Gal 1:1-5. Who wrote Galatians and how does he describe himself (v1-2)? Why does this matter? What prayer does he pray for them (v3) and how does he praise God (v4-5)?</p>	
<p>2. Using 1:6-9 what had the Galatians done and how did this affect Paul (v6)? What was his evaluation of this (v7) and what did he say should happen to one who distorts the true gospel (v8-9)? Explain.</p>	
<p>3. From 1:10-12 what was not Paul’s reason for presenting the true gospel and why would that be a problem (v10)? Where did the gospel he preached originate (v11-12)?</p>	

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Galatians 1-2 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In Gal 1:13-17 describe Paul's life before Christ (v13, 14)? Why did it change (v15-16) and what did Paul then do (v16-17)?	
5. Based on 1:18-24 what did Paul do 3 years later (v18-20) and after this (v21)? Why was this significant (v22-23) and what resulted (v24)?	
6. From 2:1-5 what occurred after 14 years and why (v1-2)? What was the positive (v3) and negative response (v4)? How did Paul handle this and why (v5)?	
7. Looking at 2:6-10 what did those of stature not do for Paul (v6)? What did they do instead (v9-10) and why (v8-9)? How did Paul respond (v10)?	
8. Using 2:11-14 what occurred at Antioch (v11)? Why did Paul react this way (v12-14) and what did he say to Cephas (v14)?	
9. Read 2:15-16. How is one justified (declared right) in God's sight (v16)? What doesn't work and why (v16)? Who does this apply to (v15)?	
10. According to 2:17-18 what will "justified" people do (v17)? Who is not to blame for this (v17)? Who is to blame and why (v18)?	
11. In 2:19-21 what did the Law do to us (v19) and for us (v19)? What is our present state (v20), how do we now live and why (v20)? What, therefore, must we not do, and why (v21)?	
12. Reviewing Gal 1-2 explain the source of the true gospel (1:1-12), describe the support that the gospel first received (1:13-2:14), and the sensibleness of the gospel versus a Law based salvation (2:15-21). What does this mean to you?	

Scripture to Remember

"Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law."

Galatians 2:16 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Renewing the Vision

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group where you were when you came to Celebration—a disinterested doubter, a disenfranchised believer, or something else. How has it worked out?
2. Talk about the difference between reaching, receiving and relating to people for the kingdom and why each is important. What are some ways for us to get better at that?
3. Explain the 1st part of the restated vision—a safe place for people to let go of their secrets. Why is letting go of our secrets better than simply telling them. What is the fear in doing that and how do we make the church a safe place to do it?
4. Talk about the goal of emotional and spiritual maturity for those at Celebration—what is the connection? Why is it important to have a "safe process" to do that?
5. Why is "being" or "becoming" the necessary 1st leg of being transformed into the image of Christ? How does this differ from the "doing" approach to transformation? Explain how this is like getting the shovel out and digging the body up.
6. Discuss how the "knowing" component is vital to this process—what do we need to "know" and how does it get applied? Where does this occur here?
7. Would you agree that "doing" should be the result, not the cause, of emotional and spiritual maturity? Why are Life Groups the best place for this to get fleshed out?