

“INSIGHT INTO THE SCRIPTURES”
Discovery Series

THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS
BILINGUAL EDITION
ENGLISH - SPANISH

Designed for
Verse by Verse
Bible Study
Discussion Groups

To be used for Bible Study purposes only,
Not to be sold.

Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 150
Ralston, OK 74650 U.S.A.

www.delessons.org

www.krowtracts.com

INTRODUCTION TO THIS STUDY TOOL

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek and copied many times. It was then translated into many languages of the world. Many different translations have been made and used throughout church history. The word “translate” carries the idea of “expressing in another language but retaining the original message of the author.” The Bible has a message and a context. What did the Apostles mean when they wrote these letters? What does the passage actually say? Do we read our own meaning into these letters? Or do we listen to what the text actually says and draw out its meaning? These questions must be asked to every honest Bible student who is seeking the truth.

Jesus and the Apostles quoted and trusted Bible translation as being God’s Word. The earliest Bible translation used by the early Christians was the Greek Septuagint. The reason for Bible translation is to help others understand God’s Word. Contrary to popular opinion, no one Bible translation can ever hope to reproduce completely all the shades of meaning found in the original Greek. One Greek word may require several or even several dozen words to translate it completely.

You have a tool in front of you that is life changing. I say “life changing” because I know as a full-time professor in a Bible College for many years just what this tool has done for me and others. Like an optometrist (a doctor treating visual defects) who puts before his patients many corrective lenses until their sight is perfect, the multiple Bible translations are the spiritual corrective lenses that gives spiritual sight by the aid of God’s Spirit (Jn. 17:17). Remember, **Good translations carry the same message in different styles**. This is why I believe a person will acquire a fuller and richer understanding of thought and content (of the original Greek) by reading and comparing several Bible translations. *Don W. Krow*

PREPARING TO STUDY GALATIANS

- (1) Read the entire Letter of Galatians several times before you come together as a group.
- (2) In your group read aloud the chapter in Galatians that you are about to study. As a group discuss the general content of that chapter.
- (3) *The heart of this program*: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “additional information” in the chapter you are studying.
- (4) After you have read and discussed verse-by-verse, a chapter (which may require many sessions of Bible discussion), go to the “Questions and Answers” section and review the questions among your group.

GALATIANS CHAPTER I

General Information: Paul and Barnabas had just completed their first missionary journey (Acts 13:2 – 14:28). They had visited Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, cities in the Roman province of Galatia (present-day Turkey). Upon returning to Antioch, Paul was accused by some Jewish Christians of diluting Christianity to make it more appealing to Gentiles. These Jewish Christians disagreed with Paul's statements that Gentiles did not have to follow many of the religious laws that the Jews had obeyed for centuries. Some of Paul's accusers had even followed him to those Galatian cities and had told the Gentile converts they had to be circumcised and follow all the Jewish laws and customs in order to be saved. According to these men, Gentiles had to first become Jews in order to become Christians.

In response to this threat, Paul wrote this letter to the Galatian churches. In it, he explains that following the Old Testament laws or the Jewish laws will not bring salvation. A person is saved by grace through faith. Paul wrote this letter about A.D. 49, shortly before the meeting of the Jerusalem council, which settled the law versus grace controversy (Acts 15).(Life Application Bible, p. 2114).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the "Additional Information."

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 1-2

.....> **READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1:[1] Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)** [2] **And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: (King James Version)**

1 ¹⁻² From the apostle Paul and from all the Lord's followers with me. I was chosen to be an apostle by Jesus Christ and by God the Father, who raised him from death. No mere human chose or appointed me to this work. To the churches in Galatia. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[1] This letter is from Paul. I am a missionary sent by Jesus Christ and God the Father Who raised Jesus from the dead. I am not sent by men or by any one man. **[2]** All the Christians join me in writing to you who are in the churches in the country of Galatia. **(The New Life Testament)**

1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group or by human authority. My call is from Jesus Christ himself and from God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.² All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending greetings to the churches of Galatia. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: (Verse 1) “Paul an apostle.” “Apostles,” *apostolos*; A special messenger, a delegate, one commissioned for a particular task or role, one who is sent forth with a message. In the New Testament the word denotes both the original twelve disciples and prominent leaders outside the Twelve. Marvin Vincent records three features of an apostle: (1) one who had had a visible encounter with the resurrected Christ; (2) one who plants churches; (3) one who functions in the ministry with signs, wonders, and miracles (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1738). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 3-5

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [3] Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, [4] Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: [5] To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (King James Version)**

[3] Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **[4]** who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **[5]** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **(New International Version)**

³May grace and peace be yours from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴He died for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. ⁵That is why all glory belongs to God through all the ages of eternity. Amen. **(New Living Translation)**

³I pray that God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace! ⁴Christ obeyed God our Father and gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins to rescue us from this evil world. ⁵God will be given glory forever and ever. Amen. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Additional Information: (Verse 4) – Paul summarizes the epistle by declaring the fact, the purpose, and the ground of redemption in Christ. Scripture divides history into two ages: “This present evil age,” dominated by Satan (2Cor. 4:4), and “the age to come” (Matt. 12:32; Mark 10:30; Eph. 1:21), inaugurated by Jesus. Since the present age has not yet passed away, the two ages are currently running on parallel courses. Jesus came to rescue us from the dominion of the old age and to transfer us into life in the Age to Come. (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1772). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 6-9

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [6] ¶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: [7] Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. [8] But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other**

gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. [9] As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (King James Version)

[6] I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- **[7]** which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. **[8]** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! **[9]** As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! **(New International Version)**

⁶ I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in his love and mercy called you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. You are already following a different way ⁷ that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ. ⁸ Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. ⁹ I will say it again: If anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person. **(New Living Translation)**

⁶ I am shocked that you have so quickly turned from God, who chose you because of his wonderful kindness. You have believed another message, ⁷ when there is really only one true message. But some people are causing you trouble and want to make you turn away from the good news about Christ. ⁸ I pray that God will punish anyone who preaches anything different from our message to you! It doesn't matter if that person is one of us or an angel from heaven. ⁹ I have said it before, and I will say it again. I hope God will punish anyone who preaches anything different from what you have already believed. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[6] I am surprised at you! In no time at all you are deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are going to another gospel. **[7]** Actually, there is no "other gospel," but I say it because there are some people who are upsetting you and trying to change the gospel of Christ. **[8]** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel that is different from the one we preached to you, may he be condemned to hell! **[9]** We have said it before, and now I say it again: if anyone preaches to you a gospel that is different from the one you accepted, may he be condemned to hell! **(Today's English Version)**

[6] I am astonished at the promptness with which you have turned away from the one who called you and have decided to follow a different version of the Good News. **[7]** Not that there can be more than one Good News; it is merely that some troublemakers among you want to change the Good News of Christ; **[8]** and let me warn you that if anyone preaches a version of the Good News different from the one we have already preached to you, whether it be ourselves or an angel from heaven, he is to be condemned. **[9]** I am only repeating what we told you before: if anyone preaches a version of the Good News different from the one you have already heard, he is to be condemned. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 7) – "Pervert the gospel of Christ." To turn something into its opposite. By adding law to the gospel of Christ, the false teachers

were effectively destroying grace (Gal. 2:21), turning the message of God's undeserved favor toward sinners into a message of earned and merited favor (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1788).

In contrast to his usual practice of expressing thanksgiving for his readers, Paul immediately plunges into his argument. The news of the Galatians is not of progress but of retrogression. They are deserting Christ for a different gospel. There is only one gospel, and what the Judaizers preached was a perversion of it (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1772).

A twisting of the truth is more difficult to spot than an outright lie. The Judaizers were twisting the truth about Christ. They claimed to follow him, but they denied that Jesus' work on the cross was sufficient for salvation (Life Application Bible, p. 2114).

<:::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSE 10

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [10] ¶ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (King James Version)**

[10] Does this sound as if I am trying to win man's approval? No indeed! What I want is God's approval! Am I trying to be popular with men? If I were still trying to do so, I would not be a servant of Christ. **(Today's English Version)**

Additional Information: "The servant of Christ." Paul had become a willing slave of Christ, which cost him a great deal of suffering from others (Gal. 6:17). Such personal sacrifice is exactly opposite the goal of pleasing men (Gal. 6:12) (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1788). <:::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 11-12

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [11] But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. [12] For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. (King James Version)**

¹¹Dear brothers and sisters, I solemnly assure you that the Good News of salvation which I preach is not based on mere human reasoning or logic. ¹²For my message came by a direct revelation from Jesus Christ himself. No one else taught me. **(New Living Translation)**

¹¹My friends, I want you to know that no one made up the message I preach. ¹²It wasn't given or taught to me by some mere human. My message came directly from Jesus Christ when he appeared to me. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[11] Let me tell you, my brothers, that the gospel I preach was not made by man.
[12] I did not receive it from any man, nor did anyone teach it to me. Instead, it was Jesus Christ himself who revealed it to me. **(Today's English Version)**

Additional Information: Paul's gospel came neither from tradition nor instruction, but from God through the agency of Christ (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1773). In contrast to the Judaizers, who received their religious instruction from rabbinic tradition. Most Jews did not study the actual Scriptures; instead they used human interpretations of Scripture as their religious authority and guide. Many of their traditions not only were not taught in Scripture but also contradicted it (Mark 7:13) (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1789). <:::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 13-14

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** Galatians 1: [13] For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: [14] And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. **(King James Version)**

[13] For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; [14] and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. **(New American Standard Version)**

¹³You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted the Christians. I did my best to get rid of them. ¹⁴I was one of the most religious Jews of my own age, and I tried as hard as possible to follow all the old traditions of my religion. **(New Living Translation)**

[13] You have been told of the way I used to live when I was devoted to the Jewish religion, how I persecuted without mercy the church of God and did my best to destroy it. [14] I was ahead of most fellow Jews of my age in my practice of the Jewish religion. I was much more devoted to the traditions of our ancestors. **(Today's English Version)** <:::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 15-17

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** Galatians 1: [15] But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, [16] To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I

conferred not with flesh and blood: [17] Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. (King James Version)

¹⁵ But then something happened! For it pleased God in his kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What undeserved mercy! ¹⁶ Then he revealed his Son to me so that I could proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When all this happened to me, I did not rush out to consult with anyone else; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. No, I went away into Arabia and later returned to the city of Damascus. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God had chosen me. He was kind and had decided ¹⁶ to show me his Son, so that I would announce his message to the Gentiles. I didn't talk this over with anyone. ¹⁷ I didn't say a word, not even to the men in Jerusalem who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went at once to Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. **(Contemporary English Version) <:::::::::: STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 18-20

::::::::::> READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [18] Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. [19] But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. [20] Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. (King James Version)

¹⁸ It was not until three years later that I finally went to Jerusalem for a visit with Peter and stayed there with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ And the only other apostle I met at that time was James, our Lord's brother. ²⁰ You must believe what I am saying, for I declare before God that I am not lying. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: (Verse 18) – This was Paul's first visit to Jerusalem as a Christian, as recorded in Acts 9:26-30 (Life Application Bible, p. 2116). <:::::::::: STOP AND DISCUSS.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 21-24

::::::::::> READ THE FOLLOWING: Galatians 1: [21] Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria, and Cilicia; [22] And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: [23] But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. [24] And they glorified God in me. (King James Version)

[21] Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. **[22]** I was personally unknown to the churches of Judaea that are in Christ. **[23]** They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." **[24]** And they praised God because of me. **(New International Version)**

²¹ Then after this visit, I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn't know me personally. ²³ All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us now preaches the very faith he tried to destroy!" ²⁴ And they gave glory to God because of me. **(New Living Translation)**

²¹ Later, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² But no one who belonged to Christ's churches in Judea had ever seen me in person. ²³ They had only heard that the one who had been cruel to them was now preaching the message that he had once tried to destroy. ²⁴ And because of me, they praised God. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Additional Information: (Verses 15-24) – Paul tells of his conversion to show that his message came directly from God. God commissioned him to preach the Good News to the Gentiles (Acts 26:16-20). After his call, Paul did not consult with anyone; instead he spent three years in Arabia. Then he spoke with Peter and James, but he had no other contact with Jewish Christians for several more years. During those years, Paul preached to the Gentiles the message God had given him. His Good News did not come from human insight; it came from God (Life Application Bible, p. 2116). <:::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Galatians Chapter 1)

Instructions for Group Leader: The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Galatians Chapter 1.**

1. **Read Galatians 1:1.** Paul was chosen to be an apostle by: a. his local church. b. a Christian agency. c. Jesus Christ and God the Father.
2. **Read Galatians 1:2.** Paul's letter to the Galatians was a circular letter that was not going to a city but rather to a Roman province. True or False.
3. **Read Galatians 1:4.** Jesus gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from: a. this present evil world. b. this present evil age. c. this present age of wickedness. d. the evil influences and dreadful future of those whose god is this present evil age. e. all of the above.
4. **Read Galatians 1:5.** May God our Father be praised: a. during our morning worship service. b. when good things happen to us. c. for ever and ever.
5. **Read Galatians 1:6.** The Apostle Paul was astonished, shocked, amazed, and surprised that some were turning away so quickly from: a. the apostle's creed. b. the Sunday service. c. GOD, and turning to another way of salvation (gospel).
6. **Read Galatians 1:7.** Some false teachers are: a. perverting the gospel. b. throwing people into confusion. c. twisting and changing the truth. d. showing others a different way to heaven, which doesn't go to heaven at all. e. trying to change the gospel. f. preaching a version of the gospel that is different from the apostles. g. distorting the gospel. h. opposing the gospel. i. all of the above.
7. **Read Galatians 1:8-9.** If anybody is preaching a false gospel they are to be: a. accursed. b. eternally condemned. c. punished. d. condemned to hell. e. under God's curse to be destroyed. f. anathema, devoted to destruction. g. all of the above.
8. **Read Galatians 1:10.** Paul sought to preach the gospel correctly and thus please God. True or False.
9. **Read Galatians 1:11-12.** The Apostle Paul was taught the gospel: a. by using human reasoning and logic. b. in school. c. through the traditions of men. d. by other human beings. e. by his favorite teacher. f. straight from God, revealed from Jesus Christ.

10. **Read Galatians 1:13.** The Apostle Paul in his past violently persecuted Christians. True or False.
11. **Read Galatians 1:14.** The Apostle Paul in his past: a. was a Baptist. b. was a Catholic. c. followed the Jewish religion.
12. **Read Galatians 1:15-16.** What happened to Saul, who later became Paul? a. God's Son was revealed to him. b. God chose to reveal his Son to Paul and through Paul. c. God revealed His Son in Paul. d. God introduced Paul to His Son. e. God showed Paul all about His Son in a special way. f. all of the above.
13. **Read Galatians 1:18-20.** Paul met Peter: a. 3 days after his conversion. b. 3 years after his conversion. c. 30 days after his conversion.
14. **Read Galatians 1:21.** For a period of time, Paul was personally unknown by the Christian congregations in Judaea. True or False.
15. **Read Galatians 1:23-24.** When the Jewish believers heard of Saul's (Paul's) conversion they glorified God as the author and source of this miracle. True or False.

**Discipleship Evangelism
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Ralston, OK 74650 U.S.A.**

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