

Galatians: Freedom in Christ

We are studying Galatians, looking at the theme of the book so you can create and anchor for your own further study. We will spend some time talking about the major themes and encourage you to go deeper in your personal time with the Word.

As we read Galatians together, I think we will find Paul leading us to the foundational theme of ***freedom in Christ***.

Let's start with the first chapter, where Paul proclaims the Gospel. Read **Galatians 1:6-7**. What is the message? What is the tone?

After this admonition, Paul spends the rest of chapter one affirming his discipleship. This is important because the Galatians had allowed themselves to be confused by wrong teaching. Paul asserted his discipleship to make sure they knew his teaching was right.

What are some 'alternative gospels' that we hear in our time? What makes them dangerous?

In chapter two, Paul digs in deeper to the truth of the freedom message. Read **Galatians 2:15-16**. What is Paul saying? If it's helpful, cross reference **Acts 15:1-11**.

What freedom is Paul talking about specifically? What freedom can we extrapolate for ourselves? Or, put differently, what are some of the 'laws' about being righteous that can become a problem in church culture or even secular culture?

Moving to chapter three, we see Paul explaining that the law restrains sin but the law does not save us. Specifically verses **3:11-14**. Reword what Paul is saying (if helpful, cross reference **Hebrews 10:1** and **Colossians 2:16-17**):

In chapter 4, Paul pleads w the Galatians to cling to the true gospel. Read **Galatians 4:1-20** and describe both Paul’s main message here as well as the tone you detect in his writing.

In chapter five we find the main message of the entire book, the message that Paul has been building to in the previous four chapters, to be well represented in **5:1**. Please read that verse and rephrase it to the best of your ability here:

What was Paul talking about specifically when he said ‘burdened by a yoke of slavery,’ based on what we have learned in the rest of the book?

As we consider what Christ has freed us from, sum up your personal gratitude and, if you’d like, some of the ways you have experienced freedom in Christ:

Alternatively, what are some things that Christ has freed us to? For example if I am freed from selfishness, I am freed to putting others before myself. Name some other examples you can think of, either from your personal experience or from your observations of others:

Paul, in fact, spends the rest of his letter to the Galatians in chapter six describing some of the things we are freed to. For example, **6:9-10**. Describe how these actions are freedom:

List here some ways you still need to experience freedom in Christ.

Pray over this list as you dive deeper into the book of Galatians. Ask God to show you what freedom here would look like, and ask Him to walk with you on the path to that freedom. We all can be like the Galatians, clinging to things that actually hold us back from an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. You can decide today to leave behind the law, whatever that looks like for you, and enjoy freedom, through God's grace in His Son.