

# Bible Reading Notes

## Galatians

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## Galatians 1

Galatians is the earliest letter we have from Paul.

The key issue of Galatians is what are the requirements for salvation. This will be settled by the whole church at the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15.

**1:2 – churches of Galatia** – These were the churches that Paul established on his first missionary journey.

**1:7 – some who trouble you** – These troublemakers were Judaizers who taught that salvation is not by grace alone but requires a Gentile convert to convert to Judaism in order to be saved.

**1:11ff** – Paul gives his defense as to why he should be listened to. His authority has come from Christ.

## Galatians 2

**2:1** – This was the famine trip to take alms to the Jerusalem Christians mentioned in Acts 11:30.

**2:3 – not forced to be circumcised** – This is very important since the Judaizers were saying that circumcision was essential for salvation.

**2:9** – Paul also received the stamp of approval from the Jerusalem church leaders, who the Judaizers had insisted agreed with them.

**2:15-21** – This is a key paragraph in the letter. Our justification does not come by keeping the Old Testament law but through faith in Christ alone.

## Galatians 3

- 3:7-8** – The promise of Genesis 12:3 is fulfilled in the Gentiles hearing and believing in the gospel, which is why the true children of Abraham are no longer by physical descent but those who have believed as Abraham did.
- 3:16** – This refers to Genesis 12:7.
- 3:19-29** – The law was never designed to be the path to salvation. It points out sin and served as a “guardian” for the Old Testament covenant people until Christ came, who was the path for salvation and life.
- 3:28** – This refers to our standing before God. Paul is not doing away with roles or hierarchy that are part of the social order.

## Galatians 4

- 4:1 – heir** – Paul picks up on the term he used in 3:29.
- 4:4 – fullness of time** – Just as the fullness of time would come for a child when set by the father (v. 2), so our Father set a time when the riches of salvation would be earned by Christ.
- 4:9-10** – Paul is referring to the Judaizers’ demands that the gentile Christians observe Jewish practices.
- 4:13 – bodily ailment** – He does not specify what it was but does suggest it had to do with his eyes (v. 15).
- 4:27** – Paul quotes from Isaiah 54:1.
- 4:31** – Paul is making a shocking argument for a Jewish man – we find our identity not in Old Testament law, but in Christ. And he does this without putting aside the moral law that was received at Sinai.

## Galatians 5

5:1 – **freedom** – Freedom from observing any law as a means to attain a right relationship with God.

5:16-26 – Faith alone does not mean a casting off of the moral law of God. Rather, through the work of the Holy Spirit the Christian is able to cast off the sins of the flesh and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

## Galatians 6

6:2, 5 – **burdens** = excessive load; **load** = normal responsibilities.

6:9 – **give up** – Believers should not give up or fall into despair.