

# FREE FROM BONDAGE

## GOD'S WAY

### *Galatians*



**Jesus Only Way**  
Ministries

## **Summary:**

### Free From Bondage God's Way

Mankind is in bondage. Some people are in bondage to Satan, and thus to self and sin. Others are in bondage, held captive by the enemy's lies, because they don't know truth. Still others are in bondage to the law or to a legalistic style of Christianity that snuffs the life and joy out of their walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can set us free?

The study of Galatians will help answer this question. "It was for freedom that Christ set us free" (Galatians 5:1).

## **Week One—Saved by Grace But in Bondage to the Law?**

### **Day One**

- Read through the entire Book of Galatians without interruption
- Now Read Galatians 1:1-10
- As you read, mark the *recipients* in a distinctive way
- Mark the key word *grace & gospel* also in a distinctive way
- Write down what you learn about the *recipients, grace, & gospel*
- Ask Questions: Who, What When, Where, Why, & How
  - Who wrote Galatians? To whom was Galatians written? Why was Galatians written? What is its purpose?

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 1:11-2:21
- Mark the words *grace, gospel, & Law* in a distinctive way
- Remember to mark the *recipients* in a distinctive way
- Make a list of what you observe by marking these key words

### **Day Three**

- Read Galatians 3
- Mark the words *grace, gospel, Law, & Spirit (Holy)* in a distinctive way
- Remember to mark the *recipients* in a distinctive way
- Make a list of what you observe by marking these key words
- Goal: Discover the message of Galatians. Why this letter was written.

## Day Four

- Read Galatians 4 and continue to mark the previous key words
- Write down what you observe by marking the key words

## Day Five

- Read Galatians 5 and mark the previous key words
- Write down what you observe
- Remember to mark the *recipients* in a distinctive way

## Day Six

- Read Galatians 6 and mark the previous key words
- How many times did you mark the word *gospel*?
- Write down what you learn about the *gospel* from Galatians

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 1:8
- Questions for discussion:
  - ◆ Who wrote the letter to the Galatians?
  - ◆ What were the Galatians dealing with?
  - ◆ What do you learn about the Galatians?
  - ◆ What had happened to the Galatians? (Support your answer from the text of Galatians.)
  - ◆ Do you know any people who have to deal with the same issues that the Galatians faced?
  - ◆ Were the Galatians under any sort of bondage?
  - ◆ If so, what was the bondage?
  - ◆ Can you relate in any way?
  - ◆ What did you learn about the gospel in this book?
  - ◆ From the book of Galatians, what do you see as your own responsibility with respect to the gospel?

### Thought For the Week

*When we seek to put people under a legalistic set of rules such as "do not handle, do not taste, do not touch" (Colossians 2:21), are we distorting the gospel of Jesus Christ? Do such rules put people under a form of bondage that keeps them from understanding and walking in the grace of God?*

*Is it by the law that someone gains favor in the sight of God? Is it by the law that someone maintains his Christian testimony? Is it by the power of the law that a child of God controls the desires of his flesh?*

## **Week Two—Shackled By Your Past?**

### **Day One**

- This week we will take a good look at Paul, the one who wrote the letter to the Galatians
- Paul, in the book of Corinthians challenged the people to be imitators of him, even as he was of Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Read Galatians 1
- Look for the progression of events in Paul's life
- Mark every reference to *time* in a distinctive way
- Mark a list of what you learn about Paul

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 2
- Look for the progression of events in Paul's life
- Mark every reference to *time* in a distinctive way

### **Day Three**

- Read Galatians 1:11-17 again
- When did God really know Paul?
- When did He set Paul apart?
- What was God going to do with Paul?
- Compare this passage with Ephesians 1:1-5
- Think about what you learn about salvation from these two passages
- Read Psalm 139:1-17
- What do you learn about God and about yourself from these verses?
- Does this passage relate in any way to what you just read in Galatians and Ephesians?

### **Day Four**

- Read Galatians 1:11-17 again
- Read Acts 9:1-25
- Note how the verses in Acts complement and expand your understanding of Paul's conversion

### **Day Five**

- Read Galatians 1:18-24 and Acts 9:26-30
- Think about Paul's beginning as a new creation in Jesus Christ

## Day Six

- Read Galatians 2 again
- Mark the key word *justified*
- How is man justified (to be declared righteous)?
- Compare Galatians 2 with Acts 15:1-33
- How would you summarize the content of Galatians 1 & 2?
- What is the main theme or subject of each of these first two chapters?
- Record the theme of chapter 1 & 2 on the **GALATIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 13)

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 1:15, 16
- Questions for discussion:
  - ◆ What about Paul's conversion interested you most? Why?
  - ◆ What was Paul like before he became a Christian? Remember to look at Philippians 3:4-7
  - ◆ According to Galatians 1:15, 16, why was Paul not saved earlier—for instance, when Jesus was still living? What can you learn about salvation from this account?
  - ◆ Would the same timing of salvation (when it pleased God) apply to you? Although you may not understand the full theological ramifications of this truth, does this knowledge comfort you in any way? How?
  - ◆ As Paul gives his personal testimony and account of some incidents that occurred after his conversion, why do you think he shared the controversy he had with Peter with the Galatians? What was his purpose?

### Thought For the Week

*Have you wept over your past and been, in a sense, tormented in your thoughts because you didn't come to know Jesus earlier? God saved you when it pleased Him. His promise is there to comfort and assure you that the Sovereign God—the God of all flesh—is able to cause all things, even your "before Christ" days, to work together for good. He will use them to make you like Jesus.*

*So, like Paul, take God at His Word. He does not lie. He stands by His Word to perform it. Forget those things which are past and press on toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:7-14). You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has foreordained for you to walk in (Ephesians 2:10).*

## **Week Three—Where's Freedom From Your Flesh?**

### **Day One**

- Read Galatians 2:11-3:5
- Mark the key word *faith* in a distinctive way
- Mark any previous key words you may have missed

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 3
- Mark the key word *promise(s)* in a distinctive way
- Mark any previous key words you may have missed
- Don't forget the key word *justify*

### **Day Three**

- Read Galatians 3:1-5 and Ephesians 1:13, 14
- What do you learn about the Galatians and the Spirit?

### **Day Four**

- Read Galatians 3:5-14 and Genesis 12:1-3
- List what you learn about Abraham
- Who were his sons?

### **Day Five**

- Read Galatians 3:13-18
- Mark the key word *covenant* in a distinctive way
- Read Genesis 15:1-6, 18 and Romans 4:1-9
- What do you learn from these passages about how Abraham was made righteous

### **Day Six**

- Read Galatians 3:19-29
- Mark any previous key words you may have missed
- What do you learn about the *law*
- Why was the *law* given?
- Record the theme of chapter 3 on the **GALATIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 13)

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 3:23, 24
- Questions for discussion:
  - What did you learn from marking the words *justified* and *justify* in Galatians 2 & 3? According to God's Word, how is a person justified (made righteous) before God?
  - What did you learn about the *law* from Galatians 2
  - What did you learn about Paul's relationship to the *law*?
  - What was Paul's relationship to the *law* like before he met Christ?
  - What was Paul's relationship to the *law* like after he met Christ?
  - According to James 2:10, if you live under the *law*, what is your obligation to the *law*?
  - In light of what you saw in Galatians 3, answer the following questions:
    - Which came first, God's promise to Abraham or the *law*?
    - Did the coming of the *law* (400 years after God's promise to Abraham) cancel out God's promise to Abraham?
    - What is the purpose of the *law*?
    - When you come to Christ, what is your relationship to the *law*?
    - What problem were the Galatians having in relation to the *law*?
    - Where are you in your relationship with God?
    - Have you been justified by faith so that you are now crucified with Christ and living by faith?
    - If you have been *justified* by faith, are you living by faith?
    - Or have you slipped back under the *law*, so that your relationship with God is based on performance rather than faith?
    - Do you think you're perfected by the performance of your flesh?

### Thought For the Week

Keeping your set of "laws" can't change you and give you an inner sense of being right with God, can it, my friend? No matter how hard you try, no matter how much you go through your form of worship (whatever it is), no matter how much you try to obey the laws of your religion or try only to do good deeds instead of bad ones, there is no peace inside nor victory over your own flesh, is there?

Only faith in Jesus Christ has set you free or can set you free. And since that is true, why then do you think you can do what you couldn't do before? Why do you think you can make yourself perfect, pleasing, acceptable to God by the strength of your flesh?

If you have truly believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are under a new covenant---a covenant that gives you the Spirit of God to live within you.

## **Week Four—You're An Heir Of Grace....Live Like It!**

### **Day One**

- Read Galatians 4
- Mark the key word *heir* in a distinctive way
- Mark any key words you may have missed

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 4:1-11 again
- List everything you learn about our adoption as sons

### **Day Three**

- Read Galatians 4:12-31
- What do you learn about Paul and his concern in this passage because of Galatians 4:15 & 6:11?
- Some believe that Paul's bodily illness may have been related to his eyes
- Perhaps Paul's reference to his "thorn in the flesh" in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 is related to his illness also.

### **Day Four**

- Read Hebrews 8
- Mark the key word *covenant*
- Be aware that there are references to both the first covenant (law) and second or new covenant (of grace)
- Distinguish between these by the way you mark each
- List what you learn about these covenants

### **Day Five**

- Read Galatians 4:21-31
- Mark the key words *flesh* & *covenants* in a distinctive way
- Remember to mark previous key words you may have missed
- Watch for the word *free* and look at Galatians 2:4 & 4:3-7
- Compare our freedom with what held us in bondage
- Who & What covenant set us free?

## Day Six

- Read Genesis 16:1-6, 15, 16; 17:15-21; 21:1-13
- Read Galatians 4:21-31 again
- Make a chart with two headings: **Hagar's Son** & **Sarah's Son**
- List what you learn from Galatians 4:21-31 about each son
- Record the theme of chapter 4 on the **GALATIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 13)

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 4:31
- Questions for discussion:
  - What did you learn about Abraham's two sons from Genesis?
  - What did you learn about Hagar's son and Sarah's son?
  - What parallels do you see from what you learned in Galatians and Genesis with respect to Abraham's sons and Abraham's relationship to them and to their mothers?
  - Discuss again what you learned about the recipients of this letter and why Paul wrote to them.
  - Discuss the allegory Paul uses; talk about why you feel he uses it and about how it helps him achieve his purpose.
  - According to what we have studied in Galatians, what is the bondage from which Jesus Christ sets us free?
  - If you belong to Jesus Christ, are you a slave or an heir?
  - How are you living in your relationship to your God?

### Thought For the Week

There is nothing more debilitating in your relationship with God than to think you please God only when you keep your own little spiritual list of do's and don'ts or someone else's list which has been imposed on you. When you feel God will only bless you when you don't cross any of your man-made religious boundaries, you live in bondage to legalism or to the law.

If you belong to God through faith in Jesus Christ, you are a beloved child of God. You are His heir forever. You are the child of the free woman. Jerusalem is your home. You are not under condemnation.

God's blessing for you is that of grace, not performance. You are an heir according to God's unchangeable promise. The Holy Spirit dwells within you and will never leave you nor forsake you. You will live with God forever and ever. You will never be cast out. So cast out the bondwoman and her son. You are under grace not law, and when you walk in that grace you will be all you should and can be. Grace doesn't make you lawless; it simply sets you free from bondage God's way, so you can live a life that is pleasing to God.

## **Week Five—How Do You Walk By The Spirit?**

### **Day One**

- Read Galatians 5
- Mark the previous key words you may have missed

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 5:1-12
- Mark the key words *circumcision* & *love* in a distinctive way

### **Day Three**

- Read Genesis 17:9-14
- Mark the key words *covenant* & *circumcised* in a distinctive way
- Record what you learn

### **Day Four**

- Read Galatians 1:6-10; 3:1; 4:17; 5:7-12; & 6:12, 13, 17
- Mark the key word *circumcision* or *circumcised*
- List what you learn about those who opposed Paul's teaching

### **Day Five**

- Read Galatians 5:13-15
- Read Mark 12:28
- Mark the key word *love*

### **Day Six**

- Read Galatians 5:16-26
- Make sure you didn't miss marking the key word *flesh*
- List what you learn about the *flesh* and *the Spirit*
- Record the theme of chapter 5 on the **GALATIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 13)

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 5:16
- Questions for discussion:
  - What did you learn this week about Paul's opposition?
  - Who is his opposition?
  - What are they called? What position or teaching do you think they hold?
  - So often the phrase "fallen from grace" is take out of its context and used to teach that people can lose their salvation.
  - When you see this phrase in its context in Galatians 5, what do you think it means?
  - If those of "the circumcision" were teaching salvation by grace (faith) but held that circumcision and adherence to the law were required for salvation, what would people who believed their teaching be under?
  - If you are under the law, can you also be under grace?
  - Are the two compatible?
  - Does freedom from the law allow a Christian to live a life controlled by the flesh?
  - What are the deeds or works of the flesh?
  - What keeps a child of God from walking by the flesh?
  - Can a child of God live haphazardly, i.e., any way he wants once he is saved, or does he need to make a very definite choice in the way he walks?
  - According to Galatians 5, how is he to walk?
  - What has a child of God done with respect to the flesh?
  - The verb practice in Galatians 5:21 is in the present tense, which indicates continuous action. Does the usage of this verb then imply that a child of God can never do any of these things, or does it imply that it won't be his habit of life?
  - If it is his habit of life, what does this tell you about his relationship to Jesus Christ?
  - Is it genuine?
  - Read Galatians 5:22, 23. Are there nine fruits of the Spirit or is there one fruit of the Spirit with nine manifestations? The text tells you. Look carefully at the subject and the verb. Are they singular or plural?
  - If a person is under the control of the Spirit, would he be living an unrighteous lifestyle?

### *Thought For the Week*

If you see the inability of the law to make you righteous, how can you think you need the law to sustain your righteousness once you come to Jesus? Can the law perfect you before God? When you enter into the new covenant of grace, you receive the promise of the Holy Spirit! Don't quench or grieve the precious Spirit of God! Let Him control your life, conquer sin, and bring forth His fruit---that of Christlikeness.

You are saved and given life by the Spirit—now habitually walk under His control.

If you say, "But I can't!" then it is quite possible that you have never been truly saved, born again of the Spirit. Ask God to show you the condition of your.

## **Week Six—Bearing the Cross...And His Brandmarks**

### **Day One**

- Read Galatians 6
- Mark the key word *cross* in a distinctive way
- Mark any previous key words you may have missed
- List what you learn from marking cross in this chapter
- Read Galatians 2:20 again
- What place does the cross have in the life of the believer?

### **Day Two**

- Read Galatians 6:1-5
- Read Matthew 18:15-20
- What do you learn from these passages about how to handle a brother (or sister) who is in sin?
- Summarize what you see

### **Day Three**

- Read Galatians 6:6-10
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13
- List the ways you can do good to others
- Put this truth into practice

### **Day Four**

For more materials like this, see Precept Ministries International Web Site at [www.precepts.org](http://www.precepts.org)

- Read Galatians 6:11-16
- Mark the phrase *new creation* in a distinctive way
- What matters---Being circumcised or being a new creation?

## Day Five

- Read Romans 7:1-6 & 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Mark the words *law* & *new (newness)* in a distinctive way
- Write down how Romans 7 illustrates the Christian's relationship to the law
- Who dies---the law or the child of God?
- Who is made new?

## Day Six

- Read Galatians 6:11-18 & Jeremiah 9:23, 24
- Mark the key word *boast* in a distinctive way
- What is a Christian to boast about?
- Can you boast about this, or do you boast in other things?
- Record the theme of chapter 6 on the **GALATIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (page 13)

## Day Seven

- Memorize Galatians 6:14
- Questions for discussion:
  - What did you learn from the book of Galatians about the place of the cross in the life of a believer?
  - To what are we crucified?
  - How would remembering that you are crucified with Christ help you in your daily walk as a child of God?
  - According to Galatians 6:16 what will this consciousness of the cross bring to your life?
  - What is to be our relationship to others according to Galatians 6?
  - How do you live this truth out practically?
  - What do you learn from Galatians, chapter by chapter, about our Lord Jesus Christ?
  - What does our Lord set us free from and how can this knowledge be applied practically?

### Thought For the Week

Walk in the righteous freedom that is yours in Christ Jesus. Don't let anyone put you under the yoke of bondage. Instead take His yoke upon you and learn of Him.  
Truth sets you free!

*Material used from Precept Ministries International Free from Bondage God's Way*

***Theme of Galatians***

Author:

**1**

Date:

**2**

Purpose:

**3**

Key Words:

**4**

**5**

**6**