

# Study Questions

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## For New Testament Books of the Bible

### Galatians

#### Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of Galatians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? Why did the author write this letter?
2. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Who were the Judaizers?
3. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Paul says that Christ, “.....died for our sins, just as God our Father planned in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live (v.4).” Give at least two Old Testament Scriptures indicating God’s plan to save us from this world.
4. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Reread verse 4, then answer the following questions: Are you grateful to God for His plan? Does your life reflect your gratitude to God for being rescued? How?
5. What did Paul mean when he said that the Gentiles in Galatia were following a different way that pretended to be the “Good News” but wasn’t; and that the Galatians were being fooled by those who would twist and change Christ’s truth (v.6-7)?
6. **REFLECTION:** In verse 10, Paul said he was not a “people pleaser.” Are you? Whose approval do you seek ... men or God’s? Explain.
7. How did Paul assure the Galatians that they should listen to him and not the Judaizers (v.11,12)?
8. **BIBLE/SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In verses 16 and 17 Paul refers to his conversion experience. Where in the Bible are we first given the explicit details of Paul’s conversion and where in the Scripture does Paul himself relate (in detail and not just refer to) his conversion experience?
9. In verse 24, Paul said people gave glory to God because of him (Paul). Why?
10. **REFLECTION:** Can people who’ve known you for many years recognize any changes in you? Can you, and they, give God the credit for those changes?
11. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** What are you doing for God ? Explain.

## Galatians Chapter 2

1. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** In verse 1, Paul mentions traveling with Barnabas and Titus. Who was Barnabas? Who was Titus? Do a Bible or commentary search and cite everything you learn about these two companions of Paul.
2. Why did Paul go back to Jerusalem 14 years later (see vs. 1-2)?
3. Why did Paul speak to the leaders of the Jerusalem church privately? What did he want the leaders in Jerusalem to understand?
4. According to Paul, why did the question of circumcision come up at the Jerusalem church?
5. **COMPARE/CONTRAST:** As apostles, what is the major difference between God's work through Peter's ministry and God's work through Paul ministry (v.7)?
6. How was Peter hypocritical to the Gentile Christians (who weren't circumcised) in Antioch (v.11)?
7. How did Peter's actions affect other Jewish Christians (v.13)?
8. Why did Peter act falsely toward the Gentile Christians at Antioch?
9. How did Paul respond to Peter's hypocrisy?
10. According to Paul in verse 16, how are we made right with God?
11. **REFLECTION:** In verses 19-21 (CEV) Paul says, "It was the Law itself that killed me and freed me from its power, so that I could live for God. I have been nailed to the cross with Christ. I have died, but Christ lives in me. And I now live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me. I don't turn my back on God's undeserved kindness. If we can be acceptable to God by obeying the Law, it was useless for Christ to die." Have you died to the law? Are you still trying to earn your way into Heaven? Explain.

## Galatians Chapter 3

1. Why did Paul ask the Galatia Christians if a magician had cast a spell on them (v. 1)?
2. Why did Paul ask the Galatians if they received the Holy Spirit by keeping the law (v.2)?
3. Abraham is known as being “a friend of God” (Isaiah 41:8, Chronicles 20:7, James 2:23). Why did God declare Abraham righteous (v.6)?
4. **REFLECTION:** In Genesis 22, God tests Abraham’s faith by asking Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Do you have the faith Abraham had? Has God ever tested your faith? Explain.
5. Who are the real children of Abraham?
6. **THE GOSPEL:** Paul says we are all cursed under the law because none can keep all of its provisions (v.10,11). How did Christ redeem us?
7. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Look in the Old Testament can we find at least two Scriptures where God promised Abraham his inheritance?
8. Was God’s promise to Abraham nullified by the law?
9. What does Paul say is the purpose of the law (v.19,24)?
10. **SCRIPTURE REVIEW:** Read verses 24-29. What is Paul’s rationale for saying we Christians are no longer bound by the law?

## Galatians Chapter 4

1. In verse 5, why does Paul say God sent His Son to us?
2. Why does Paul say God sent the Spirit of His Son to us (v.6)?
3. As children of God, what does Paul say we've inherited?
4. Why did Paul tell the Galatians he feared for them (v.11)?
5. **REFLECTION:** Paul asks the Galatians if they remember caring for him when he was sick (v.13,14). Many Christians ignore those who are sick and need their help. Many even ignore members of their own immediate family who need their help. Do you avoid family members who are in pain or facing difficulties? Are you willing to sacrifice your own resources and comfort to help others as though they were Christ Himself?
6. **COMPARE/CONTRAST:** Explain the analogy Paul drew between Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac (v.21-31).
7. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find Isaiah's prophesy that Paul quotes in verse 27?
8. Paul says that as Christians, we are like Isaac, children of the promise, who are often persecuted by Ishmael (those who would have us try to earn salvation by keeping the law). What does Paul tell us the Scriptures say is a remedy to those who would enslave us (v.30)?
9. **REFLECTION:** Are you like Paul or the Judaizers? Are you still trying to "earn your way into heaven?" Do you truly appreciate the Jews and the Gentiles as God's choice of a unique people to whom He offered forgiveness and eternal life? Explain.
10. **REFLECTION:** How would those closest to you describe you as a Christian? Would they say you live so that God will accept you or that you live in a manner that shows you have accepted God's purpose for your life? Discuss.

## Galatians Chapter 5

1. In verses 3 and 4, What does Paul say is our relationship with Christ if we are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised or by trying to make ourselves right with God by keeping the law?
2. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Paul says that we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive everything promised to us (v.5). Name three of God's **New Testament promises** to those who live by the Spirit.
3. What does Paul mean when he tells the Galatians that a "little yeast quickly spreads through the whole batch of dough (v.9)." What was this analogy's practical application to the Galatians?
4. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Paul says the whole law can be summed up in one of God's command, "Love your neighbor as yourself (v.14)." Where is this commandment found in the Old Testament? Where is this commandment found in the New Testament?
5. **SELAH (Pause and Reflect/Revisit):** What does the fact that God sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners imply?
6. Name five of the vices Paul cites in verses 19-21 of this chapter.
7. **REFLECTION:** Which of the vices cited in this chapter are still influencing you?
8. What kind of fruit or virtue does the Holy Spirit produce when He is in control of our lives (v.22)? Describe.
9. **REFLECTION:** Which of the above virtues in question 8 do you recognize in yourself?
10. How does Paul compare the law with the virtues he cites in verses 22-23?
11. **COMPARE/CONTRAST:** Complete the blanks below. Contrast the characteristics of our sinful nature with the will of the Holy Spirit within us:

**Our sinful desires are:**

**vs.**

**The fruit of the Spirit is:**

- a) Wickedness
- b) Undisciplined
- c) Hate
- d) Short tempered
- e) Harshness
- f) Downcast
- g) Untrustworthy
- h) Hostile

(Goodness)

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## Galatians Chapter 6

1. What does Paul tell the Galatians to do if another Christian is overcome by sin (v.1)?
2. **REFLECTION:** Do you know someone overcome by sin right now? When and how do you plan to help that person?
3. Paul told the Galatians, “Be sure to do what you should.... ..and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else (v.4).” Why do some people compare themselves to other people?
4. What does Paul say we should do for our teachers of God’s word?
5. **REFLECTION:** In this chapter Paul says those who live to satisfy sinful desires will harvest decay and death and those who live to please the Spirit will inherit eternal life (v.8). In a word, “You reap what you sow.” What kind of seeds are you sowing? Explain.
6. Paul indicated that many of those Judaizers who advocated circumcision didn’t really keep the whole law (v.13). What did Paul mean?
7. What did Paul mean when he said, “My interest in this world died long ago, and the world’s interest in me is also long dead (v.14).”
8. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** How much are you interested in the things of this world? Discuss.
9. Who does Paul say are the “new people of God”(NLT) or the “Israel of God?”(NIV, NASB, NKJV) (v.16)
10. In verse 11, Paul indicates that he is closing this letter to the Galatians in his own handwriting (implying that the rest of this letter was dictated to and written by someone else). Why did Paul close this and some other letters by writing the closing himself?
11. Recap and restate the purpose of Paul’s letter to the church in Galatia.