

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Galatians 1-5 NLT

Paul defends the Gentiles

1. What audience did Paul's letter address?

ANSWER: The Galatia Churches

Galatians 1:2

All the brothers and sisters^[a] here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia.

2. What is Paul's title? Who appointed him?

ANSWER: An apostle; Appointed by Jesus Christ

Galatians 1:1

This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

3. Can you share some of Paul's characteristics according to Philippians 3:5?

ANSWER: Circumcised on the 8th day, a pure-blooded citizen of Israel, a member of the tribe of Benjamin, a real Hebrew, and a member of the Pharisees.

Philippians 3:5

I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.

4. Paul wrote to the Galatia churches because of a major conflict. What is the major conflict in Chapter 2? What is Paul's main message in Chapter 2?

ANSWER: Jews versus Gentiles; circumcision versus uncircumcision and the requirement to conform to Judaic Law.

A group had arisen in the early church, insisting that the Gospel was for followers of the Jewish law and that non-Jews must follow Jewish law to become followers of Christ. The major controversy centered around Gentile converts conforming to the Jewish custom of circumcision as a sign of entering into the covenant of God and Abraham.

Paul wrote the letter because some Jewish Christians came to the Galatians and promoted salvation by conforming to Judaic Law and custom of being circumcised, eating only kosher

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foods, offering sacrifices, etc. Paul is emphatic that accepting this teaching is like voluntarily becoming a slave again after being freed.

Paul explained to the Galatians that justification does not come through following the law, but through one's faith. Paul challenged the Galatians to follow after the teachings he instilled in them regarding following after Jesus Christ.

Paul placed Peter on blast for hanging out and eating with the Gentiles but drew back from the Gentiles once his Jewish friends came. Peter was afraid of the criticism he would receive from his Jewish friends. His friends insisted on the necessity of circumcision by the Gentile converts.

The Jewish converts placed stock as "sons of Abraham," and inheritors of God's promise to Abraham. Abraham's signature deal with God is through circumcision. One group had Gentile converts circumcised as a show of being "sons of Abraham". Paul pointed out the errors in this line of thought as he quoted Galatians 3:6, "In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

5. Paul references an Old Testament patriarch and the promises God made to him. Which patriarch is this?

ANSWER: Abraham

6. Where in Galatians does Paul make a comparison to Abraham?

ANSWER: Galatians Chapter 3:6-9

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

7. Can you share the meaning Paul was relaying in Galatians 3:28?

ANSWER: We are all one in Christ Jesus regardless of race, status, gender, or creed.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile,^[a] slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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Colossians 3:11

¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,^[a] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,^[b] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

I Corinthians 12:12-14

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-16

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Romans 3:22-24; 29-30

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

²⁹ After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. ³⁰ There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

Romans 12:12-15

Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." ¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how

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can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

8. Where in Scripture does it reference Paul and Barnabas getting the right hand of fellowship? Can you name the three men that gave them the right hand of fellowship?

ANSWER: Galatians 2:9 KJV; James, Cephas, and John

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Bonus Question

9. To whom did Paul say called him to preach the Good News?

Answer: Jesus called Paul to preach to the Gentiles

Galatians 1:15-16

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me^[a] so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.