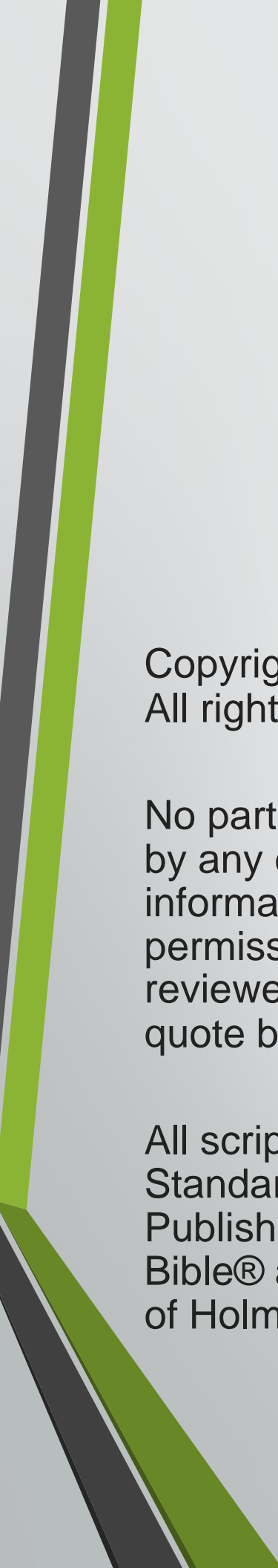




The Book of Galatians

Study Guide-Chapter 2

By Tiffani Davis



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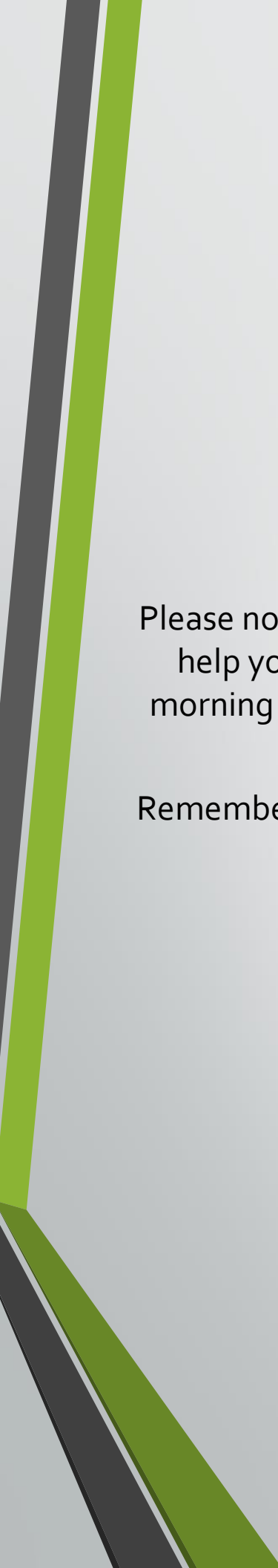
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Book of Galatians' Bible Study Schedule

Galatians	Date
Intro.-	Wed, Jan 10
vv. 1:1-10	Fri., Jan 12
Communion	Mon., Jan. 15
vv. 1:11-24	Wed., Jan 17
vv. 2:1-10	Fri., Jan 19
Communion	Mon., Jan. 22
vv. 2:11-21	Wed., Jan 24
vv. 3:1-14	Fri., Jan 26
Communion	Mon., Jan. 29
vv. 3:15-26	Wed., Jan 31
vv. 3:27-29; 4:1-7	Fri., Feb 02
Communion	Mon., Feb. 5
vv. 4:8-20	Wed., Feb 7
Vv. 4:21-31	Fri., Feb. 9
Communion	Mon., Feb. 12
vv. 5:1-15	Wed., Feb 14
vv. 5:16-26	Fri., Feb 16
Communion	Mon., Feb. 19
vv. 6:1-10	Wed Feb 21
vv. 11-18	Fri., Feb. 23



Please note this study guide is meant to be supplemental material to help you study Galatians. The guide may not be followed by the morning Bible study facilitator. Please feel free to share any of your answers or questions from the guide on the line.

Remember we are learning from each other so don't hesitate sharing what God is showing you throughout the study!

Book of Galatians Outline

-Greeting
(Chpt. 1:1-5)

-Introduction
(Chpt. 1:6-10)

-Paul's defense of
his Apostleship
and the Gospel
(Chpts. 1:11-2:10)

-Freedom from the
law
(Chpt. 2:11-21)

-Justified by Faith
in Christ
(Chpt. 3:1-9)

-The Promise
(Chpt. 3:10-26)

-Heirs and Sonship
(Chpts. 3:27-4: 1-
7)

-Don't return to
the Tutor (Chpt.
4:8-20)

-Two Covenants
(4:21-31)

-Freedom
(Chpts. 5:1-6:10)

-Conclusion
(Chpt. 6:11-18)

Chapter

2:1-10

Paul 's Defense

vv. 1-2 Then after 14 years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. went up because of a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles-but privately to those recognized [as leaders]-so that I might not be running, or have run, in vain.

Paul continues to prove the Judaizers wrong about the Gentile's needing to be circumcised and about his apostleship. He makes the point in chapter two that the other apostles agreed with him concerning the gospel he was preaching. He recounts his trip to Jerusalem 14 years after his conversion. He was accompanied by Barnabas (Acts 4:36), a Jewish Christian, and Titus (1 Tit. 1:4), a Greek Christian who was also a gentile.

Paul's concern at the time of that trip was the reaction of the 12 apostles which could have caused a division. Such a division could undo Paul's work planting churches and raising disciples, his work *having been in vain*. Paul didn't go to the apostles to be acknowledged by man, instead he went because of revelation from God.

Read Acts 11:27-30. What was the reaction of the apostles toward Paul?

vv. 3-4a But not even Titus who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. [This issue arose] because of false brothers smuggled in,

Why was Titus not being circumcised an issue for some people? How does the other apostles not demanding Titus be circumcised serve as evidence of their support of Paul's teachings?

Paul didn't Patty cake around. He labeled those who smuggled in the false gospel as *false brothers*. What was their position as described in Acts 15:1?

v. 4b who came in secretly to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us.

Beware of the enemy's sneaky tactics. What were the motives behind the false brethren coming in secretly and spying?

vv. 5-7 But we did not yield in submission to these people for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain for you. But from those recognized as important (what they really were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism)-those recognized as important added nothing to me. On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised.

Paul was not willing to bend to opposition and compromise the gospel. He wasn't going to let anyone with a title (those recognized as important) sway what Jesus had revealed. Therefore, Paul refused to allow Titus to be circumcised for the sake of peace with the brethren. Getting circumcised would not have been wrong, but it would not have been the right thing to do. It would have compromised the gospel to appease men.

What do Jesus's words in Matthew 10:34-36 reveal about Paul's actions?

vv. 8-10a For He who was at work with Peter in the apostleship to the circumcised was also at work with me among the Gentiles. When James, Cephas, and John, recognized as pillars, acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas,

In v. 8, Paul reminded the readers that he was called to the uncircumcised and Peter to the circumcised by Christ Jesus (this was their primary focus, but they both ministered to others). What does Romans 1:14-15, Acts 9:14, and Acts 22:21 tell us about Paul's ministry?

v. 9 The church pillars (James, Cephas (Peter), and John) recognized Paul's apostleship and extended their right hand of fellowship to him. This gesture symbolized a partnership that signified acceptance, trust, and agreement. How does this gesture help to strengthen Paul's argument that he wasn't some radical preacher leading people astray?

v10b , [agreeing] that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They asked] only that we would remember the poor, which I made every effort to do.

v. 10 Not only did the church leaders extend the right hand of fellowship to Paul acknowledging his calling, but they asked him to remember the poor. How does Acts 11:29-30 highlight Paul's response to that request?

Why do you think the other apostles wanted Paul to remember the poor?

Can it be easy to forget the poor, to look past the beggar on the street, or judge people as bad stewards over their finances, thus creating an excuse not to help them? Read Deu. 15:11, Prov. 19:17, Prov., 14:31, and Lk. 3:11. What has God told us about the poor? How has the Holy Spirit instruct you to remember the poor?



Chapter

2: 11-21

Freedom From

The Law

vv. 11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.

Paul said he opposed (to stand against) Peter. This was a bold move considering Peter's position; yet Paul didn't let that deter him. The souls of the Gentiles were more important as well as the state of the church that was being poisoned by false teaching. What does the Bible say about approaching a brethren who is walking in sin? Read 1 Tim. 5:20, Gal. 6:1, and Jam. 5: 19-20.

v. 12 For he used to eat with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party.

Read Acts 10:9-13 and 10:23-36. How does Peter's behavior in Gal. 2:12 conflict with what God showed him? Why do you think Peter chose to ignore what God revealed to him?

Peter's behaviors illustrates that no one is without flaws, and anyone can be subject to the pressures of man. Peter showed boldness in Acts 10 when He obeyed God beyond possible opposition from man. Yet that past victory didn't prevent him from giving into the peer pressure from the *certain men from James* and showing respect of person. Peter showed he succumbed to the pressures of man when he denied Jesus three times. This weakness is what led Peter to sin and separate himself from the Gentiles.

We should never get to a point where we think we don't have room for improvement or that we are beyond correction. What can we learn from David in Ps. 19:12-14 regarding how we should be praying about sin in our lives?

v. 13 Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

Notice the ripple effect of Peter's actions. We can rest assured people are watching us. Some people are hoping we fail, and others are influenced by the lives we live. Peter's hypocrisy caused others to stumble.

Paul specifically called out Barnabas, again showing no one is immune to being deceived and giving into the pressures of man. How do you think it effected Paul seeing his friend, Barnabas, opposing him? Are you willing to stand for the truth of the gospel no matter what?

The Gentiles of Paul's days weren't the only ones exposed to false teachers. Read Ex. 32:8 and think about believers today. What similarities do you see? Why do you think it can be tempting to follow false teachers?

v. 14 But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?"

We must be careful of what might seem like a small or insignificant deviation from the gospel. It's vitally important that we know the whole truth. Paul also demonstrates the importance confronting those who are deviating from the gospel. Peter and the others were not just refusing to eat with the Gentiles, they were undermining the gospel. Their actions spoke louder than words, as do ours.

Why do you think Paul chose to confront Peter publicly? What can you learn from Paul's approach if you must confront someone spreading a false gospel?

How did Paul use Peter's lax dietary restrictions (Acts 10) to expose his hypocrisy?

vv. 15-16 We are Jews by birth and not "Gentile sinners"; yet we know that no one is justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified.

As a Jew who was observant of the law, Peter should have known works did not make people *justified* or right before God. Justified comes from the ancient Greek word *dikaioo*. This is a legal term used to refer to a person who gets a verdict in court. With regards to believers, it is a favorable verdict we get from God.

Verse 16 is an important verse in the New Testament, because justification is one of the fundamental truths about Christianity. As such, we must understand what it means. To be saved and in relationship with God, we had to be declared right by Him. We are sinful beings and there's no amount of works we could perform that would make us righteous. How are we considered righteous before God (v16)?

Read Gal. 2:4 and Gal. 1:8-9. What does Paul say about those who try to impose additional requirements for our righteousness?

v. 17 *But if, while seeking to be justified by Christ, we ourselves are also found to be sinners, is Christ then a promoter of sin? Absolutely not!*

Remember, this is a public statement Paul is making to address the criticism presented by the *certain men from James*. Imagine Paul standing in a room between two groups. The first group was composed of *the certain men from James*, his best friend, Barnabas, other Jewish believers, and a church pillar, Peter. This group believed the Gentiles should be subject to the Law of Moses and without doing so were not really saved. The other group were the Gentiles who were being looked down on by brethren who should have been embracing them. Be careful around people who hold your past against you and deny the change and the work that God has done in you. The prejudice hearts of the Jewish believers created a foothold for the enemy to cause confusion and division in the church. The gospel is for anyone who believes, no matter how ugly their past is or has been.

Christ by no means promotes sin and *justification* doesn't mean God condones sin. Eating with the Gentiles was not condoning the Gentile lifestyle before they were born. Read John 8:1-11. What was Jesus's attitude about sin regarding the adulterous woman? What's His attitude toward us?

Gal. 3:21 and Rom. 6:1; 6:15. What do these verses tell us about the attitude we should have toward sin?

v. 18 If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker.

This verse references the traditions of the law like circumcision. Peter's actions were re-establishing what Jesus rendered mute. Therefore, it was Peter and those refusing fellowship with the Gentiles who were the lawbreakers. They were the ones who decided Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was not sufficient to bear the wrath of God for our sakes.

How can we make sure to avoid a mentality that believes we have to work to earn anything from God?

v. 19 For through the law I have died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ;

Paul makes his position on the law clear, *he died to the law*. Important to note is there was nothing wrong with the law. In fact, it reflected the heart of God. The law revealed how sinful Paul was; it condemned Paul to death.

Paul said he died to the law, not that the law was dead. Paul was no longer living as an observant Jew living in fear of not keeping the law perfectly. Christ paid the penalty the law imposed on Paul and it's because of Christ that God declares us right with Him. Now through Christ, Paul is dead to the law.

What does Romans 7:4 teach us about dying to the law?

v. 20 and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Verse 20 is a popular one that probably carries more weight than people realize. Paul's death to the law enabled *him to live in* the Son of God. His death like ours, occurred when we were crucified with Christ. Read Romans 6:8-10; 7:6. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? How should being crucified with Christ impact our daily lives?

What does verse 20 reveal about Christ's motive for giving himself to us?

v. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

This is the final argument to Paul's public address. How many more ways can Paul make it plain? Adding prerequisites to our salvation, adding requirements and deeds makes the gospel illegitimate and voids Christ's work on the cross. We are saved by grace through faith. The law does not save.

What does Matt. 26:39-42 tell us about there being another means to our salvation?

Chapter Two

What stood out to you the most about this chapter?

What did you learn about salvation through works?

What did you learn about confronting a brethren in sin?

What thing(s) will you apply in your walk from this chapter?



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