

A People of the Book
8-Year Curriculum
Year 1, Quarter 3

**A Study of
Selected Texts from
Paul's Epistles,
Galatians &
Ephesians**

Tom Painter

Introduction

Paul's letter to the Galatians covers a great deal of ground. The apostle focuses on the purity of God's gospel, and draws upon several Old Testament examples to show our relationship to Him. One of the most recognizable passages in Galatians discusses the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul's epistle to the Ephesians also covers a wide variety of topics, but they are all tied together with the thought "in Christ." It is interesting to note how many times the phrases "in Christ," "in Jesus," "in the Lord," and related pronouns are found in the book – no doubt by design of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture quotations come from the New King James Version.

Recommended Study Aids

Jerry C. Brewer, ...*Unto the Churches of Galatia*

James Burton Coffman, *Galatians through Colossians*
(<http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/bcc/>)

David Lipscomb and J.W. Shepherd, *Second Corinthians and Galatians*

David Lipscomb and J.W. Shepherd, *Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians*

The schedule for this class is listed below. Students are encouraged to read the texts prior to class and study the worksheets provided.

Schedule

- 1) July 8 – The Gospel (Galatians 1)
- 2) July 15 – Corruption and Hypocrisy (Galatians 2)
- 3) July 22 – Belief and Righteousness (Galatians 2-3)
- 4) July 29 – Heirs of God (Galatians 3-4)
- 5) August 5 – Slave or Free? (Galatians 4-5)
- 6) August 12 – Freedom in Christ (Galatians 5)
- 7) August 19 – Life of Godliness (Galatians 6)
- 8) August 26 – Blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1)
- 9) September 2 – Alive in Christ (Ephesians 2)
- 10) September 9 – Confidence in Christ (Ephesians 3)
- 11) September 16 – Worthy in Christ (Ephesians 4)
- 12) September 23 – Light in Christ (Ephesians 5)
- 13) September 30 – Stand in Christ (Ephesians 6)

Corruption and Hypocrisy***Read: Galatians 2*****Review of the Reading**

- 1) Why didn't Paul give in to the false brothers who were spying on the freedom we have in Christ?
- 2) Who gave Paul the right hand of fellowship?
- 3) Who was led astray by Peter's hypocrisy?
- 4) What would be true if righteousness could be gained through law?
- 5) What did Peter stop doing when certain men came from James?

Thought Questions

- 1) What is the effect of going beyond the simple truth of the Gospel and binding these opinions as law on other Christians? What examples of this behavior can you think of in today's religious world?
- 2) What do verses 6-9 say about the false teaching that Peter was the first Pope of the Roman Catholic Church?

Belief and Righteousness***Read: Galatians 2-3*****Review of the Reading**

- 1) “For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a _____.”
- 2) In what way was Christ clearly portrayed to the Galatians?
- 3) All who rely on observing the law are under what?
- 4) How did Christ redeem us from the curse of the law?
- 5) Through whom was the Law put into effect? What was their role in putting it into effect?

Thought Questions

- 1) What is the purpose of law? Does law ever reward good behavior?
- 2) Use your concordance to find other times the statement “Abraham ‘believed God and it was accounted (or credited) to him for righteousness’” is used. Is belief the only requirement for righteousness based on what you find?

Heirs of God***Read: Galatians 3-4*****Review of the Reading**

- 1) “But when the _____ of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a _____, born under the _____, to redeem those who were under the _____, that we might receive the adoption as _____.”
- 2) Through whom was the law put into effect?
- 3) What was the law put in charge of?
- 4) We are sons of God through what?
- 5) “...and if a son, then an _____ of God through Christ.”

Thought Questions

- 1) Noting the word “for” in verse 3:27, what is the logical relationship between faith and baptism?
- 2) How should those who are in Christ regard those of other races, cultures and socio-economic classes?

3) In what ways is the Christian in danger of becoming conceited?

4) How can Christians avoid “biting and devouring” each other?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Alive in Christ***Read: Ephesians 2*****Review of the Reading**

- 1) Who is at work in the sons of disobedience?
- 2) Where has God seated us?
- 3) “For we are His _____, created in Christ Jesus for _____, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
- 4) Who is the chief cornerstone?
- 5) What do all the people of the church come together to form (2:21)?

Thought Questions

- 1) List some ways that a person is dead when he is apart from Christ.
- 2) Does God have a purpose for each life he creates in Christ?

3) *Rhetorical Question:* What is God's purpose for your life?

4) What is the purpose of the church according to 2:21?

5) How does this congregation fulfill this purpose?

Your Questions...

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- 3) What effect does understanding the enormity of God's love have on a human being?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

- 3) What should be the basis of our unity in Christ? Can we achieve unity based on compromise?

- 4) How does a person mature in Christ? How can a Christian know that he is growing in Christ?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

- 3) What is the two part significance of “washing of water by the word.”?
Water = _____ Word = _____
- 4) Describe a marriage that lives up to the pattern given in this text. Will the wife have anything to fear by submitting? Will the husband fail to receive any good thing from his wife?
- 5) What does Paul mean in 5:15 when he says “...the days are evil”?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Stand in Christ***Read: Ephesians 6*****Review of the Reading**

- 1) Bondservants/slaves should obey their masters with what kind of heart?
- 2) Why should a Christian put on the full armor of God?
- 3) What did Paul want the Ephesians to pray about for him?
- 4) Who is our struggle against?
- 5) What will the Lord reward everyone for?

Thought Questions

- 1) How should a father raise his children? What are real examples of this in practice?
- 2) How should a Christian work in his vocation? Why?
- 3) From what perspective should the Christian view life and its struggles? Are our struggles physical or spiritual?

4) How does the armor of God enable us to stand in a world that is hostile to Christ?

5) How can this congregation be more effective in our prayers?

6) What difference does prayer make in spreading the gospel?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

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8-Year Curriculum

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Galatians & Ephesians</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>
2008	<i>Exodus</i>	<i>I & II Timothy, Titus</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>	<i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)</i>
2009	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i>	<i>Romans</i>	<i>Jeremiah and Lamentations</i>
2010	<i>I and II Thessalonians</i>	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

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