



BIBLE STUDY

▪ GALATIANS ▪

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS | FALL 2021

STUDY OUTLINE

WEEK 1	OVERVIEW; GALATIANS 1:1-5
WEEK 2	GALATIANS 1:6-24
WEEK 3	GALATIANS 2:1-10
WEEK 4	GALATIANS 2:11-21
WEEK 5	GALATIANS 3:1-14
WEEK 6	GALATIANS 3:15-29
WEEK 7	GALATIANS 4:1-20
WEEK 8	GALATIANS 4:21-31
WEEK 9	GALATIANS 5
WEEK 10	GALATIANS 6

STUDY OUTLINE

STUDY FORMAT

6:00 - 6:30 PM

Arrive; The room will be open for reading and annotating if desired

6:30 - 6:45 PM

Prayer; Remember the purpose of Bible Study. Share with your table what you've found. Discuss unknown words, highlight confusion/illumination, review the outline.

6:45 - 7:05 PM

Break up the passage among your table. Check different translations and cross-references. After using the Bible first, then move on to commentaries.

7:05 - 7:25 PM

Share what you found with your table

7:25 - 7:55 PM

Teaching

7:55 - 8:00 PM

Meditate on at least one thing revealed about who God is from the text. Note any application to your life. Prayer as a group.

Then take it home – find space during the week to work through questions and process what God is teaching you through his Word.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

STUDY FORMAT

• APPROACHING THE WORD OF GOD •

WE APPROACH THE BIBLE RECOGNIZING IT IS GOD SPEAKING ABOUT HIMSELF. WE DON'T SEARCH FOR ANSWERS ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO, RATHER, WHO IS GOD? SEEING CHRIST IN THE SCRIPTURE WILL NATURALLY DEFINE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO. SO, WE COME FIRST WITH OUR MINDS AND WATCH OUR HEARTS FOLLOW.

STUDY METHOD

1 PRAYER

Every moment of Bible study is done with a prayerful heart. This changes our study from a pursuit of knowledge to a pursuit of God, recognizing he alone illuminates the Word and is the reason it is living and active. This includes intentional prayer to start and end, and as needed during study, as well as a posture of the heart that acknowledges in every moment, we are depending on Christ for understanding and engaging with a God who has spoken first to us.

2 PEOPLE

God reveals himself uniquely through his Word when it is read in community. Studying the Word with other people brings joy, accountability, understanding, and a deep connection that cannot be made any other way.

3 PURPOSE

We study keeping ourselves oriented to the fact that we are seeking to behold the reign and rule of God as revealed in his Word and find our place in that amazing story. This keeps us from misinterpreting Scripture to fit our own agenda and instead stepping into God's agenda.

4 PATIENCE

As we study the Bible with patience, we wait on the Lord in areas of confusion or difficulty, trusting the Holy Spirit to reveal the majesty of God in the beautiful mosaic of Scripture. We don't skip portions that might be unclear to us, but rather depend on the Lord as he stretches our understanding. We sit in it, we re-read, we wait, we seek, knowing that everything God has spoken is valuable.

5 PROCESS

We use a process to study – explained on the next page.

6 PERSPECTIVE

Prior to studying any portion of the Bible, we must have the proper perspective on the text to avoid misinterpretation. A few basic questions to ask and keep in mind as you study:

1. Who wrote it?
2. When was it written?
3. To whom was it written?
4. In what style was it written?
5. Why was it written?

SIX "P" METHOD

STUDY METHOD

5 **PROCESS**

**STAGE 1
OBSERVATION**
WHAT DO I SEE?

- READ THE ENTIRE BOOK FIRST WHEN REASONABLE, THEN FOCUS SECTION BY SECTION (CHAPTERS, VERSES)
- ANNOTATION: MARK UP THE TEXT
- DEFINE UNKNOWN WORDS - GET LITERAL WORD APP
- IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN THE TEXT



Literal Word
NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE



COLOR METHOD

- USE COLORS, QUESTIONS MARKS, ARROWS, CIRCLES.
- MAKE A COLOR KEY
 - Choose your own key, write it down and keep it with you as you study. Stay consistent with your colors. Mark up the text with colors that have meaning. Circle, underline, draw connecting lines and arrows, etc.




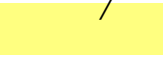


EXAMPLE COLOR KEY

- LIGHT GREEN** – REPEATED WORDS
- DARK GREEN** – WORD IMPORTANCE OR CONNECTIONS
- BLUE** – ILLUMINATION (GOD GIVEN NEW UNDERSTANDING)
- ORANGE** – I DON'T GET IT
- RED** – STRUCTURAL IMPORTANCE
- PURPLE** – CROSS REFERENCE
- PINK** – IT'S GOOD
- BROWN** - MEDITATE

MARKINGS METHOD

- USE A PEN AND HIGHLIGHTER
- MAKE A MARKINGS KEY
 - Choose your own key, write it down and keep it with you as you study. Stay consistent with your key. Mark up the text while keeping in mind the 6 W Questions (**Who**, **What**, **When**, **Where**, **Why** and **how**)

EXAMPLE MARKINGS KEY

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
|  | REPETITION |
|  | KEY WORD/PHRASE |
|  | COMPARE |
|  | CONTRAST |
|  | QUESTIONS |
|  | ITS GOOD |

5 **PROCESS cont.**

STAGE 2
INTERPRETATION
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- READ OTHER TRANSLATIONS (CSB, NIV, NLT, NASB, KJV, NASB, ETC.)
- CHECK CROSS-REFERENCES
 - LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE
 - TEST YOUR OWN – “I’VE HEARD THIS BEFORE”
 - BIBLE TRANSLATORS HELP IN MARGIN OR FOOTNOTE
- READ COMMENTARIES
 - STUDY BIBLE NOTES
 - ESV STUDY BIBLE
 - NIV BIBLICAL THEOLOGY STUDY BIBLE
 - OTHER PARAPHRASES
 - *EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: GALATIANS* BY THOMAS SCHREINER
 - *CHRISTIAN STANDARD COMMENTARY: GALATIANS* BY TIMOTHY GEORGE
- FIND THE THEME FOR EACH PARAGRAPH OR CHAPTER AND WRITE THEM IN THE BACK OF YOUR SCRIPTURE JOURNAL. USE THESE AT THE END OF THE STUDY TO FIND A THEME FOR THE WHOLE BOOK.
- WRITE YOUR OWN PARAPHRASE

• *THE ESV STUDY BIBLE CROSS-REFERENCE GUIDE* •

The ESV Study Bible includes 80,000 cross-references and an extensive concordance, which together encourage easy location of important words, passages, and biblical themes. There are several kinds of cross-references.

References to specific words or phrases appear as , e.g., “ver. 7” (within the same chapter), “ch. 9:6” (within the same book), or “Heb. 4:2.”

Brackets (e.g., “[ch. 9:6]”) denote passages with a similar theme.

“See” directs readers to verses that contain a collection of related cross-references (e.g., “See Jn. 8:26”). The phrase “For . . . , see . . .” denotes longer passages that closely parallel the current passage (e.g., “For ver. 1–15, see Mark 4:1–12; Luke 8:4–10”). “See” paired with a verse range denotes passages that less closely parallel the current passage but still provide context and/or explanation (e.g., “See Ex. 7:17–24.”).

“Cited” denotes passages quoted in or from other parts of Scripture. “(Heb.)” or “(Gk.)” indicates that the similarity of a cross-referenced passage is clearer in the original Hebrew or Greek than in English.

• *THE NIV BIBLICAL THEOLOGY STUDY BIBLE
CROSS-REFERENCE GUIDE* •

You will notice a small letter of the alphabet after a certain word in a verse – locate that chapter and verse citation in the center margin to find the corresponding verses connected to that word or phrase.

5 **PROCESS cont.**

STAGE 3
APPLICATION
HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity; it was written to transform your life. Your hunger for the Word will be in direct proportion to your obedience to it. In fact, there's a cycle: the more you understand it, the more you use it; the more you use it, the more you want to understand it. Both are necessary.

- MAKE IT PERSONAL – WHAT STIRS YOU?
 - JOURNAL
 - MEDITATE ON PASSAGE
 - MEMORIZE A VERSE/SECTION/CHAPTER
 - DRAW OR DO WORD ART
 - WRITE SCRIPTURE OUT – POST IT IN COMMON PLACES

- QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FOR EACH PASSAGE
 - WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY ABOUT GOD?
 - WHAT IS GOD SHOWING ME IN HOW THIS APPLIES TO MY LIFE?
 - WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES TO MY INITIAL THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT FROM MY CURRENT UNDERSTANDING AFTER STUDY?
 - WHAT THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES ARE COMMUNICATED?
 - WHAT ISSUES, PERSONAL OR CORPORATE, ARE INVOLVED?
 - WHAT SPIRITUAL STRUGGLES ARE ADDRESSED (DIRECT/INDIRECT)?
 - WHAT RESPONSE DO I THINK THE PASSAGE SHOULD INSPIRE IF I SHARED IT WITH OTHERS?

- 9 QUESTIONS TO ASK from Howard Hendricks' "Living By the Book"
 1. IS THERE AN EXAMPLE FOR ME TO FOLLOW?
 2. IS THERE A SIN TO AVOID?
 3. IS THERE A PROMISE TO CLAIM?
 4. IS THERE A PRAYER TO REPEAT?
 5. IS THERE A COMMAND TO OBEY?
 6. IS THERE A CONDITION TO MEET?
 7. IS THERE A VERSE TO MEMORIZE?
 8. IS THERE AN ERROR TO MARK?
 9. IS THERE A CHALLENGE TO FACE?

5

PROCESS cont.

STAGE 3 APPLICATION HOW DOES IT WORK?

Matthew Harmon's "Asking the Right Questions"

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

1. What do we learn about God?
 - a. Look for God's *character* (who he is, what he is like)
 - b. Look for God's *conduct* (what he is doing)
 - c. Look for God's *concerns* (what things, events, people he is concerned about)
2. What do we learn about people?
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be *created* in God's image
 - b. Look for the *fallen condition*.
 - c. Look for how God's *people should live*.
3. What do we learn about relating to God?
 - a. Look for things to *praise and thank* God for.
 - b. Look for sin to *confess and repent*.
 - c. Look for *promises and truths to believe*.
4. What do we learn about relating to others?
 - a. Look for how we should *interact* with and *treat* others.
 - b. Look for ways to *pursue reconciliation* with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to *love, serve and care* for others.

APPLYING THE BIBLE

1. What does God want me to think/understand?
2. What does God want me to believe?
3. What does God want me to desire?
4. What does God want me to do?

6 PERSPECTIVE

- Who wrote it?

The first word of the letter to the Galatians is “Paul,” and there has been widespread agreement by scholars down through the ages that Paul is indeed the author.

- When was it written?

Although the question of the date of Galatians is related to this question of “which Galatians,” some clues can probably be found in the letter itself. The main indicator is the lack of reference to the Jerusalem council (Acts 15). Although this is an argument from silence, many commentators have regarded this as a “deafening silence.” It would have been enormously helpful to Paul’s argument if he could have mentioned the decision of the council that Gentiles should not be circumcised: this, after all, appears to be a major point of contention between Paul and the false teachers influencing the Galatians. Since the council took place in A.D. 48/49, and Paul evangelized South Galatia in A.D. 47/48, some time around A.D. 48 is a plausible date for the composition of Galatians. However, determining dates in Paul’s life is always somewhat uncertain, and so one cannot place too much weight on the date in the interpretation of the letter.

- To whom was it written?

Paul’s letter to the Galatians was likely written to the churches he had established during his first missionary journey (Acts 13:1–14:28). He probably wrote the letter from his home church in Antioch in Syria, sometime before the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:1–31).

- In what style was it written?

Like the rest of the Pauline letters, Galatians follows the conventions of letter writing in NT times. There is a salutation, a body, a paraenesis (set of moral exhortations), greetings, and a benediction. There is no initial thanksgiving, however, which indicates Paul’s agitation and alarm over the theological situation in Galatia. Paul gets right to the point, which is that the Galatians are in danger of turning to a different gospel, thereby risking the everlasting ruin of their souls. The main argument of the epistle is advanced by the use of autobiography, example, allegory, satiric rebuke, and exhortation.

The doctrinal thrust of Galatians gives it a strong internal unity. In one way or another, everything in the epistle is related to Paul’s defense of justification by faith alone. The letter is also unified by the apostle’s intensity of tone, which comes through as strongly here as it does in any of his writings—especially in his intolerance of false doctrine and his indignation with people who promote it. Stylistically, Galatians finds literary coherence in its thematic contrasts: the true gospel vs. a false gospel, faith vs. works, law vs. grace, liberty vs. legalism, sonship vs. slavery, and the fruit of the Spirit vs. the desires of the flesh.

⑥ PERSPECTIVE cont.

- Why was it written?

A crisis has hit the church in Galatia. The church came into being as a result of God's Spirit at work in Paul's proclamation of the gospel (3:1–5; 4:13–15). But within the short space of time since Paul left (1:6), the church has been visited or infiltrated by false teachers whom Paul calls those "who trouble you" (1:7) or "those who unsettle you" (5:12). These teachers have convinced the Galatians of a false gospel which requires them to be circumcised. Paul sees that these pseudo-Christians merely want to win converts for their own prestige: they want to win approval from the Jewish authorities by showing how effective they are in converting Gentiles to a form of Judaism (6:12). Since the Jewish establishment approves of the fact that they are making Gentiles Jewish, the false teachers have the best of both worlds: they have created a sect of which they are the leaders, and they also escape any Jewish persecution. One further effect of this on the Galatians appears to have been the division within their church, presumably over these issues of circumcision and law that the false teachers have raised (5:15).

Although the Galatians appear to have come under the spell of these teachers and have become convinced of their teaching (1:6), Paul does not regard the situation as hopeless (3:4). Nevertheless, Paul is more critical of his audience here than in any other letter, and he chastises the Galatians for being foolish (3:1) and provides numerous reasons why they should return to the truth.

- I. The Letter's Opening: Paul's Concern for the Galatians ([1:1-9](#))
 - A. The Sender: Paul, the Apostle ([1:1-2a](#))
 - B. The Recipients: Christian Assemblies in Galatia ([1:2b-5](#))
 - C. An Apostolic Warning ([1:6-9](#))

- II. Paul Defends His Apostolic Authority ([1:10-2:14](#))
 - A. Paul's Thesis: The Divine Origin of His Gospel ([1:10-12](#))
 - B. Paul Explains His Thesis ([1:13-2:14](#))
 - 1. Paul's About-Face as Evidence of the Divine Origin of His Gospel ([1:13-17](#))
 - 2. Fifteen Days with Cephas and Fourteen Years in Syria and Cilicia ([1:18-24](#))
 - 3. A Strategy Meeting in Jerusalem ([2:1-10](#))
 - 4. Paul Defends the Gospel in Antioch ([2:11-14](#))

- III. Paul Defends the Gospel in Galatia ([2:15-6:10](#))
 - A. The Essence of the Gospel ([2:15-21](#))
 - B. Paul Reminds the Galatian Believers of Their Conversion ([3:1-5](#))
 - C. Paul Shows That the Gospel Is Consistent with the Scriptures ([3:6-5:1](#))
 - 1. Faith Rather Than Law Defines Abraham's Offspring ([3:6-29](#))
 - 2. Believers Are God's Adopted Sons ([4:1-11](#))
 - 3. A Personal Appeal to the Galatian Believers ([4:12-20](#))
 - 4. An Allegory from Scripture ([4:21-5:1](#))
 - D. The Ethical Results of the Gospel ([5:2-6:10](#))
 - 1. The Results of Submitting to the Law ([5:2-15](#))
 - 2. The Fruit of the True Gospel ([5:16-6:10](#))

- IV. Paul Summarizes His Concern: The Letter's Closing ([6:11-18](#))
 - A. The Importance of the Letter's Central Concern ([6:11](#))
 - B. The False Teachers' Motives ([6:12-13](#))
 - C. Paul's Contrasting Motives ([6:14-17](#))
 - D. A Prayer for the Galatians to Experience God's Grace ([6:18](#))