

# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM

## Series objective

The church in Galatia was divided over issues of observing Jewish laws and regulations according to the Torah. Many leaders within this church were requiring non-Jewish Christians to live by Jewish laws that missed the main point of the Gospel message in that Jesus fulfilled the law and saved all who believe in him. As has always been true when people trust in Jesus as the Messiah, His life, death, and resurrection become the basis of their salvation. As a result, they become new creations. The book of Galatians reminds Jesus' followers to embrace the Gospel message of the crucified Messiah, that justifies all people through faith and empowers them to live as Jesus did.<sup>1</sup>



## Overview of Chapter 5

Verses 1 – 12                      Justification by grace versus works  
Verses 13 – 25                    Living as free people in Christ

1. Read verse 4. What is meant by the phrase, *you have fallen away from grace*? Consider your answer in the context of Ephesians 2:8-9.
2. Apparently some teachers were influencing the churches in Galatia in a negative manner as Paul comes down hard on them (i.e., verses 10 and 12). How important is it that you know, do, and communicate the right message? Was there a time in your life when you told someone something or influenced them incorrectly?
3. The second part of Galatians (verses 13-25) is one of the most powerful set of verses in the New Testament. List below the acts of sinful nature and Fruit of the Spirit attributes.

### Acts of Sinful Nature

### Fruit of the Spirit

4. In the above list associated with the sinful nature, what percentage can be related to sexual sin? In today's society this sin is rampant, within and outside of the church. Consider Paul's message on marriage in I Corinthians 7:1-7 and how marriage can be used to help combat today's lack of purity.

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<sup>1</sup> Bibleproject.com

5. What does it mean to crucify the sinful nature? Does it mean we no longer sin?
  
6. Take a personal inventory of your life today by considering the following.
  - a. As you look at your life, what is your greatest area of struggle? Is this something that has been part of your life for quite some time?
  
  - b. What are some specific Spiritual disciplines you can invoke to rid this sin from you life?

Next week's study

Read Galatians Chapter 6. How important is it to have a healthy view of one's self? What does Galatians 6 have to say on this matter?

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Provided in the figure below is a graphic showing the three facets of salvation. I want to be very clear – this is NOT a progressive salvation, or stages of salvation that we see in cults where people work to earn their salvation. Rather, there are three distinct facets of salvation we experience as Believers. Once we make a profession of faith and are justified, we are eternally secure. From that point forward until death (or the Rapture of the Church), we are being sanctified.

To better understand justification, sanctification, and glorification, consider the following:

- Justification – saved from the **PENALTY** of sin
- Sanctification – saved from the **POWER** of sin
- Glorification – saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:14

The following verses discuss how the three facets of salvation.

- Justification (Romans 5:1 and 8:33)
- Sanctification (2 Timothy 2:15-26)
- Glorification (John 12:12-16, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Most teaching on salvation does not distinguish between what can be called the *facets of salvation*; specifically, failing to distinguish between justification and sanctification. Failing to make a distinction between justification and sanctification at best results in confusion when discussing salvation, while at worst creates a works-based salvation that is common-place among the cults.