

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Sept	Galatians 1:1-24	True Gospel
2) 09 Sept	Galatians 2:1-21	True Grace
3) 16 Sept	Galatians 3:1-22	True Life
4) 23 Sept	Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7	True Heirs
5) 30 Sept	Galatians 4:8-31	True Freedom
6) 07 Oct	Galatians 5:1-26	True Fruit
7) 14 Oct	Galatians 6:1-18	True Compassion
8) 21 Oct	James 1:1-18	With Perseverance
9) 28 Oct	James 1:19-27	With Obedience
10) 04 Nov	James 2:1-26	With Works
11) 11 Nov	James 3:1-18	With Control
12) 18 Nov	James 4:1-17	With Submission
13) 25 Nov	James 5:1-20	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- The Galatians were so far off the reservation Paul questioned whether he labored in vain over them...BUT he did not give up on them. He continued to use strong reasoning to try to bring them back

Passage	Comments
Gal 4:8-11	<p>Can Witnessing / Disciplining be a Waste of Time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv8-10. For whatever reason, the Galatians, who were once idolaters, seemed to be backsliding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What makes some believers turn from their faith and slip back into their old ways? ♦ What would you do to restore a fallen believer? • v11. "...perhaps I have wasted my time with you" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Can witnessing be a waste of time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ♦ Consider this. Know your audience. Sometimes it is better to "shake the dust off our feet" Mk 6:11 ♦ But the Galatians didn't fit this profile. They were deceived believers, not belligerent non-believers
4:12-20	<p>Paul's Approach to Restore the Galatians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How far should we go to bring a wayward believer or a wayward child or other relative or friend back to God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shake the dust off of our feet and leave them be <input type="checkbox"/> No limits – do whatever it takes, ask no questions <input type="checkbox"/> Depends on their behavior – Prodigal behavior, leave alone; Repentant behavior, seek restoration ♦ Consider 1John 5:16, If anyone sees his brother (friend, child) committing a sin not leading to death (blaspheme of the Holy Spirit, aka, rejection of Christ), he shall ask, & God will (restore) give life to those who commit sin not leading to death • v12. Paul strongly pleaded with the Galatians • v13-15. He asked them to consider their past kindness and faithfulness (remember the good ole days) • v16. And then he emphasized their current state, "Why do you consider me your enemy for telling you the truth?" IOW, 'come now, let's reason together on this'
	<p>Why Do People Reject the Truth for Lies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Truth is boring <input type="checkbox"/> Lies are tantalizing <input type="checkbox"/> Truth hurts <input type="checkbox"/> Lies allow liars to escape responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> Truth brings persecution <input type="checkbox"/> Lies bring relief • Consider this. The wicked (intentionally) suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). They would rather believe a lie. • Recall this. Many Jews in Jeremiah's day reverted from serving the one true God to sacrificing to the Queen of Heaven because they suffered less when they were idolaters Jeremiah 44:15-19 • Realize this. The Galatians might have realized they would suffer persecution for being hard core believers. After all, Jesus promised it (John 15:20). So, if they compromised on their doctrines somewhat, it stands to reason they would suffer less, right? Satan only has time & interest to persecute true believers.

Passage	Comments
4:21-29	<p>One More Consideration – Historical Insight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who would have thought to use the comparison between Isaac and Ishmael (son of promise vs son of the flesh) in the argument against legalism and grace? • This illustration consumes 11 verses (which is 1/3 of this chapter, & over 7% for the whole letter of 149 vs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is rather significant insight when considering the discussion on the Fruit of the Spirit, which only consumes 2 verses, & we spend more time on 'em • v24. These women (Hagar & Sarah) and their sons (Ishmael & Isaac) represent 2 distinct covenants – The Old vs the New; Slavery vs Freedom; Law vs Grace; the ways of the Flesh vs ways of the Spirit of Promise • vv25-29. Paul gives insight that Hagar & Ishmael represent the earthy Jerusalem while Sarah & Isaac represent the heavenly Jerusalem of Rev 21:2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Being believers, we should have a heavenly perspective on things, not earthly or fleshly
4:30-31	<p>Cast Out the Bondwoman and Her Son!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Paul saying cast out the Judaizers – the Legalists out of church? Possibly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ False teachers & troublemakers should be challenged, & some even shunned Rom 16:17-18 ♦ One thing for sure, what Paul is saying ever so strongly is to take GRACE seriously. Don't ever mingle truth with error. Definitely toss out falsehood

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- One thing that is clear from Paul's badgering of the Galatians is for them and us to know sound doctrine and faithfully adhere to it, teach it, crave it, protect it, share it, and strongly challenge false teachings & false teachers, for the church is the pillar of truth [1Tim 3:15](#)

NEXT WEEK: Galatians 5. •Paul uses some strong language again to persuade his friends to get back on the right track, "You have fallen from grace..." Then he shows how we can know we are living by the Spirit when we see specific characteristics or fruit come out.



"Can you hold a sec? He's conducting his morning devotional."