

## WEEK 4

Galatians discussion and 1 Thessalonians background

### **Galatians discussion**

#### Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of Galatians ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Galatians ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you?

Which passages challenged you?

Look at 1:1-10; what does Paul say about God, Christ, himself, and the gospel?

God—raised Christ from the dead, His will was for Christ to give Himself for us,  
deserves glory, calls us by the grace of Christ

Christ—sent Paul, gave himself for our sins to rescue us

Himself—an apostle, sent by Jesus and not men, not trying to win the  
approval of men but of God, is a servant of Christ

The gospel—not this new teaching, but what Paul had already taught them.

New teaching isn't "good news" at all

Another gospel could lead to eternal damnation

These lay the foundation for the whole letter

Paul has very strong words for the Judaizers? Why do you think he had that confidence?

Revelation from Christ, saw evidence of God's acceptance of Gentiles without  
circumcision, Jerusalem council—other apostles agreed with this position

God had a plan for Paul—1:15—how was Paul prepared for the work God had for him?

great knowledge of Scriptures, taught by a leading rabbi—learned how to think

and teach, born in Roman city—knew prevailing culture of his day, saw and spoke to Jesus,  
even by the zeal he had to destroy the church

Why did Paul oppose Peter?

He refers three times to being crucified – 2:20, 5:24, and 6:14. What do you think that means?

Do you think we ever fall into the trap mentioned in 3:3?

what is the solution? 5:1

We have our second lesson about Abraham in ch 3 (the first was in James).

What are we to learn from Abraham's example?

righteousness comes from believing God (faith) not works like  
circumcision)—that's what leads to the inheritance

What WAS the law good for then? 3:24

Why do we follow some parts of the law and not others?

for example, we don't steal, but we eat pork

Look at the amazing privileges and position of a Christian in 3:25- 4:7

What does it mean to "clothe yourself with Christ"? 3:27

What are we heirs of?

What did you learn from the allegory about Hagar and Sarah (slave woman and free woman)?

covenant 1: slave woman Hagar & son (Ishmael) born ordinary way

persecuted son born of promise

son (Ishmael) will not share in the inheritance

Mount Sinai – where the law was given

present Jerusalem – children (Jews) are slaves to the law

covenant 2: free woman Sarah & son (Isaac) born of promise

Jews are persecuting Christians

son (Isaac and now Christians) will share in the inheritance

Jerusalem that is above—children (Christians) are free

If we're free, can we do anything we want? 5:13-14

What are the fruits of the Spirit? 5:22-23

how are they the opposite of the acts of the sinful nature? 5:19-21

When or why should we take pride in ourselves? 6:3-5

## **1 Thessalonians background**

### Timeline

(49) Judeans to Antioch (Judaizers) (Acts 15)

Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem to settle it , go thru Phoenicia & Samaria

**Jerusalem council:** no circumcision required; Judas and Silas chosen to return to Antioch

with Paul and Barnabas with letter

some time later. Paul and Barnabas decide to go to towns where they had preached

disagree over taking John Mark

Barnabas and John Mark sail to Cyprus

50 Paul's **2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey** : Paul and Silas go thru Syria and Cilicia strengthening the Churches

Came to Derbe, then Lystra (Acts 16)

Took Timothy with them

Traveled thru region of Phrygia & Galatia. Passed Mysia ( a region ) , to Troas

Vision of man from Macedonia

Sailed to Samothrace then Neapolis

Traveled to Philippi (Roman colony & leading city of that district of Macedonia)

51 Stayed several days, on Sabbath met Lydia

Slave girl released from evil spirit

Paul and Silas dragged to marketplace, severely flogged and imprisoned

Prison opened , jailor saved

Passed thru Amphipolis & Apollonia, came to Thessalonica (Acts 17)

Went to synagogue for 3 weeks, many saved, including prominent women

Jealous Jews start riot

At night, Paul and Silas sent to Berea (50 miles west)

To synagogue, many believed, Jew and Greek

Thessalonian Jews came to Berea, stir up crowds

Paul sent to coast, Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea

Paul escorted to Athens (200 miles south), Silas and Timothy to join him

To synagogue, agora, Areopagus: preaches

Paul leaves Athens, goes to Corinth (Acts 18)

Emperor Claudius orders all Jews to leave Rome

Silas and Timothy arrive from Macedonia; Timothy sent back to Thessalonica

Paul leaves synagogue, goes to Gentiles, many Corinthians believe

Lord gives Paul vision—keep on speaking

Jews bring Paul to court—Gallio is proconsul of Achaia

Jews ejected by Gallio

Paul stays in Corinth some time (18 months); Timothy joins him there.

## 51 1 Thessalonians

### About the epistle

Preaching of gospel in Thessalonica led to decreased ranks in synagogues, so Jews

became very jealous and tried to charge them with being traitors to Caesar

Has been some slander that Paul's ministry is only for profit

### About the church

Largely Gentile, but there was a Jewish population there

Huge amount of persecution and pressure to revert to former pagan ways

Remember, everything was religious in this world

Some believers had died under persecution; questions about what had happened to them,  
since the Lord hadn't returned yet

Paul had only been there about 3 weeks when he was forced to leave; couldn't instruct them fully;  
(although accused of "turning the whole world upside down" or "causing trouble  
all over the world")

Jason was a leading Christian there; Paul stayed at his house

Paul was concerned about the new church, so sends Timothy back to instruct them further

When Timothy meets Paul in Corinth, brings word that Thessalonian Christians were enduring  
persecution bravely, but some had died, and they were puzzled about how the  
Lord's coming would benefit those who had already died.

Letter written to explain that those who had died would be at no disadvantage  
when the Lord returns.

Also some problems with moral laxness, common to Gentile believers

Seem to be many believers with means, who were sharing charity with poorer brothers  
in Macedonian churches. Some lazy people were taking advantage of this.

Thessalonica—on Aegean sea, fine harbor and fertile plain

On the great northern military and trade highway from Rome to the East,  
and a large seaport

Not far from Mount Olympus—home of the Greek gods

Leading city of Macedonia

#### Difficult passages

Holy kiss: common form of greeting between people of same sex