



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of July 1 – July 7, 2017
Lesson #2 of **“The Gospel in Galatians”**



Paul's Authority and Gospel

Memory Text: *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”* ([Galatians 1:10 KJV](#)).

Read and Meditate for This Week's Study:

*Galatians 1; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-3;
Galatians 5:12; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Luke 24:45-49*

Main Thought for the Week: There is only one true Gospel of Jesus Christ, but there are many who are willing to preach things of their own devising in the name of Christ. We must know what the Gospel of Christ really is, and we must know what our relationship with that Gospel is -- as individuals and as a body of believers. If we are menpleasers, then we cannot have any part with Christ, for **“no man can serve two masters.”** We will take a look at how the enemy tried to attack both Paul's teaching, and his authority to teach, and see what it means for us today.



Paul, the Letter Writer

Sunday's Summary – July 2:

1. How did the members of the apostolic church view the writings of Paul?
(2 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Timothy 1:11) _____

2. What was their basis for this viewpoint? (2 Peter 3:1-2; Galatians 1:1) _____

Discuss/Consider: If the Bible were to be written today, what kind of medium, format, and style do you think the Lord would use to reach us now? _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Letters (or epistles) like the one to the Galatians played an essential role in Paul's apostolic ministry. As the missionary to the Gentile world, Paul planted a number of churches scattered all around the Mediterranean. Although he made it a point to visit these churches whenever he could, he was not always able to stay very long in one place. To compensate for his absence, Paul wrote letters to the churches in order to give them guidance. Over time, copies of Paul's letters were shared with other churches (Colossians 4:16). Although some of Paul's letters have been lost, which is true of other NT Bible writers, at least thirteen books in the New Testament bear his name. From Peter's letters, we can also see that the writings of Paul, and the other apostles, were viewed as Scripture. Through this, we can see the working of the Holy Spirit in His administration of the body of Christ.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Paul's Calling

Monday's Summary – July 3:

1. What is the reason for Paul's abnormally long salutation in the epistle to the Galatians? (**Galatians 1:6-12; Galatians 3:1**) _____

2. Who called Paul to his ministry? (**Galatians 1:1; Acts 13:1-2**) _____

ILLUMINATION: In his letter to the Galatian believers Paul briefly reviewed the leading incidents connected with his own conversion and early Christian experience. By this means he sought to show that it was through a special manifestation of divine power that he had been led to see and grasp the great truths of the gospel. It was through instruction received from God Himself that Paul was led to warn and admonish the Galatians in so solemn and positive a manner. He wrote, not in hesitancy and doubt, but with the assurance of settled conviction and absolute knowledge. He clearly outlined the difference between being taught by man and receiving instruction direct from Christ. The apostle urged the Galatians to leave the false guides by whom they had been misled, and to return to the faith that had been accompanied by unmistakable evidences of divine approval. ... – Ellen G. White, **Acts of the Apostles**, p. 386

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Paul’s Gospel

Tuesday’s Summary – July 4:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: One of the unique features of Paul’s letters is the way he links the words grace and peace in the greetings. The combination of these two words is a modification of the most characteristic greetings in the Greek and Jewish world. Where a Greek author would write “Greetings” (*chairein*), Paul writes “Grace,” a similar-sounding word in Greek (*charis*). Then he adds the typical Jewish greeting of “Peace” (*eirene*). The combination of these two words essentially describe his gospel message. Paul, in fact, uses this combination of words more than any other writer in the New Testament. The grace and peace are not from Paul but from “God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (**Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2**)

1. What other aspects of the gospel does Paul include in the opening of his Galatian epistle? (**Galatians 1:1-5**) _____

2. What do we receive through the redemptive work of Christ? (**Galatians 3:13-14**) ____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



No Other Gospel

Wednesday's Summary – July 5:

ILLUMINATION: While tarrying at Corinth, Paul had cause for serious apprehension concerning some of the churches already established. Through the influence of false teachers who had arisen among the believers in Jerusalem, division, heresy, and sensualism were rapidly gaining ground among the believers in Galatia. These false teachers were mingling Jewish traditions with the truths of the gospel. Ignoring the decision of the general council at Jerusalem, they urged upon the Gentile converts the observance of the ceremonial law. The situation was critical. The evils that had been introduced threatened speedily to destroy the Galatian churches. Paul was cut to the heart, and his soul was stirred by this open apostasy on the part of those to whom he had faithfully taught the principles of the gospel. He immediately wrote to the deluded believers, exposing the false theories that they had accepted and with great severity rebuking those who were departing from the faith. After saluting the Galatians ... he addressed to them ... words of sharp reproof: Paul's teachings had been in harmony with the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit had witnessed to his labors; therefore he warned his brethren not to listen to anything that contradicted the truths he had taught them.

– Ellen G. White, **Acts of the Apostles**, p. 383-384

1. What strong words does Paul use that demonstrate the degree of his concern about what was happening in Galatia? (**Galatians 1:6-9; Galatians 5:12**) _____

Discuss/Consider: Do we see “other gospels” being preached today among God’s remnant people? What can we learn from Paul’s method of reproof and correction to the Galatians? _____



The Origin of Paul’s Gospel

Thursday’s Summary – July 6:

1. Why does Paul say it is impossible to be a follower of Christ while trying to please people? (**Galatians 1:10**) _____

2. How does Paul make it clear that he is not interested in any personal acclaim as he fulfills his commission? (**Galatians 1:11-12; Galatians 6:14,17**) _____

Appeal: How certain are you of what God has called you to do? Take some time during your daily personal devotions to be sure you know what God is calling you to do, and that you are operating within His revealed will for your life. (**1 Peter 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17**)

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Wrapping It All Up...

Friday's Summary – July 7:

ILLUMINATION: In almost every church there were some members who were Jews by birth. To these converts the Jewish teachers found ready access, and through them gained a foot-hold in the churches. It was impossible, by scriptural arguments, to overthrow the doctrines taught by Paul; hence they resorted to the most unscrupulous measures to counteract his influence and weaken his authority. They declared that he had not been a disciple of Jesus, and had received no commission from Him; yet he had presumed to teach doctrines directly opposed to those held by Peter, James, and the other apostles

Paul's soul was stirred as he saw the evils that threatened speedily to destroy these churches. He immediately wrote to the Galatians, exposing their false theories, and with great severity rebuking those who had departed from the faith.

– Ellen G. White, *Sketches From the Life of Paul*, pp. 188-189

Final Thoughts: At Metro New York World Ministry, we are committed to the preaching and teaching of the complete Gospel of Jesus Christ, and nothing but the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We encourage all of our listeners to be like the Bereans. The Bereans not only **“received the word with all readiness of mind,”** but also to **“searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”** Brethren, we need to study our Bibles daily. Today as never before, there are winds of doctrine flying all around us, and we need to be personally established in the truth of God's word. We cannot rely on any man or woman to be our interpreter of Scriptures. The Holy Spirit has been given to guide us into all truth, and we need to pray for that promise for ourselves. (**Acts 17:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Luke 24:45-49**).

PERSONAL NOTES: _____

