

GLC  ESSENTIALS

GALATIANS

Session 1





“What is truth?”

Pontius Pilate
Jerusalem, 33 AD
John 18:38a

EXPLORE

1. How would you answer the following questions?

A. $2 + 3 =$ _____

B. The colors found in a rainbow are...

_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____

C. Draw a circle, a triangle, and an octagon inside the boxes below:



Circle

Triangle

Octagon

D. Write down the numbers one through ten in sequence below:

Now compare your answers with the rest of the group.

2. What did you notice about your answers compared to the others?

3. Where did you base your answers on?

4. Based on this activity, would you agree or disagree with this statement?

“A person can be sincere and yet be sincerely wrong.” For example, if someone says, $2+2=5$ and he sincerely believes it, would that make it right?

“It does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in what you believe in.”

(Circle one)

I agree.

I disagree.



**Truth is EXCLUSIVE.
Something is either
true or not true.
You cannot have
anything in between.**



The theme of Galatians is...

The True Gospel

Before we examine the book of Galatians further:

When it comes to our **SALVATION**, what do you think is the correct formula?

A. Faith in Jesus + Good Works = Salvation

Or

B. Faith in Jesus = Salvation which results in Good Works



**Consistent
godly BEHAVIOR
comes after
CORRECT
THINKING
and knowledge
of the TRUTH.**

*(In other words, you cannot expect someone
to behave correctly if that person
doesn't have correct thinking based on the truth.)*



AN OVERVIEW OF GALATIANS

CHAPTER	GENERAL OUTLINE	CHAPTER THEMES
1	Defense of the Gospel	Distortion of the Gospel
		Defense of Paul's authority
Deliberation with Leaders		
Definition of the Gospel		
Law and the Gospel		
Legalism and the Gospel		
2	Demonstration of the Gospel	Freedom and the Gospel
3		Holy Spirit and the Gospel

First 4 chapters are **Doctrinal**

Last 2 chapters deal with **Behavior**

*Read from the Bible and/or write down
Galatians 1:1-5 in this page.*

(You may also pick out some key words or phrases from the verses and write those down. You may even want to create a picture/icon/symbol to represent key ideas or make a mind map.)

*Paul greets the Galatian believers with
GRACE and PEACE*

1. Why do you think Paul mentions “grace” first before “peace”?

(You may write down your thoughts in the space below before you share them with a partner and/or the rest of the group.)

**“Grace and
peace to you
from God
our Father
and the Lord
Jesus Christ.”**

Galatians 1:3



Read Galatians 1:6-7.

2. What was the problem that Paul wanted to address with the church in Galatia?

3. How did Paul refer to the kind of gospel that the Galatian believers followed?

A Different Gospel is a Distorted Gospel

Paul was saying,

“I cannot change the gospel, the apostle Peter cannot change the gospel, the apostle John cannot change the gospel. For that matter, no religious leader can change the gospel.”

Who can change the gospel and come up with a different one?

No one. Not even apostles. Not even angels.

Think about it...

4. If an angel appeared and performed miracles and declared,

“This is now a NEW gospel,”

Will you believe him?

Not even an ANGEL can change the gospel!

Many people’s faith is based on miracles. In the Bible, there are many passages that show that people were deceived by miracles that were actually done by the Devil and his cohorts.

Write down Matthew 24:24 below.

What is the Bible telling us?

*Don’t make miracles the basis of your faith.
If you do, you will be DECEIVED.*

**KNOW GOD'S
WORD AND
LET THAT BE
THE BASIS OF
YOUR FAITH.**

What did Paul say about those who preach
a different (wrong) gospel?

They are **“ACCURSED”**.

This word literally means *‘anathema’* or *‘condemned to hell’*.

Paul is saying,

You cannot change the gospel.

The consequences are very serious if you do.

5. What is the TRUE GOSPEL by which you are saved if you BELIEVE?

Write down 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 below. or scribble down key words or phrase, or doodle symbols that represent major ideas.

JESUS

DIED for our sins.

Was buried.

And RESURRECTED from death.

All in 3 days.





Dr. Simon Greenleaf

1783-1853

Who is Simon Greenleaf?

One of the principal founders of the Harvard Law School was Simon Greenleaf (1783–1853). Dr. Greenleaf used to put down the Christians in his law classes. His Christian students challenged him to take his three volumes on the Laws of Legal Evidence and apply the principles to evidence of the resurrection of Christ.

What does Dr. Greenleaf discover?

After thoroughly studying the four gospels, he concluded that one of the most documented evidence of any historical event is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It will stand any court scrutiny.

What did he do with the truth that he discovered?

He became a believer in Jesus Christ in the process of his investigation.

(We're guessing he stopped putting down the Christians in his law classes after that).

SOURCE: www.josh.org
PHOTO: Wikimedia Commons
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Greenleaf#/media/File:SimonGreenleaf.jpg

**“The resurrection
is one of the best
established facts
of history.”**

Dr. Simon Greenleaf
Harvard Law School founder

6. There are more than 9,000 religions in the world. Can you name some of them?

7. What sets Christianity uniquely apart from all other religions?

*The most significant difference between them
is that among all the founders of these religions,
only Jesus Christ claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God.
He was the only one who died for our sins
and rose again from the dead to PROVE
that He is who He claimed to be.*

Our faith is not blind faith! Jesus Christ is a historical person; He lived. He died. And He rose again. Even our calendar is a silent but powerful testimony to the reality of Jesus Christ.

B.C. Means “Before Christ”
A.D. Means “Anno Domini”

Anno Domini is Latin for “The Year of Our Lord” referring to the years after the birth of Jesus Christ.

**“Do you realize that
the Christian faith
is the only faith that talks
about REDEMPTION?”**

**Not just forgiveness ---
redemption.
Redemption that comes
from the grace of Christ.**

**Other religions talk
about the longing for it,
the hope for it,
but never, ever
the PROVISION for it.”**

Dr. Ravi Zacharias
“Jesus Among Other Gods”

Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas or create a mind map of Ephesians 2:8-10 below.

8. According to these verses, how are we saved?

9. Are we saved as a result of good works? What is the role of good works in salvation?

*Grace is God's undeserved favor.
We don't deserve salvation and we cannot earn it ever.
It is a GIFT from God that can be received by FAITH.*

**We are NOT saved by doing good works.
We are saved FOR good works.
Good works is the FRUIT,
not the ROOT of our salvation.**

(Now turn back to page 15 and check your answer to the right formula for salvation. Congrats if you got it right! If you did not, now is a good time to change.)

Read about Paul's life in Galatians 1:13-17.

Some words that described Paul are written below. Try to guess the first word of every phrase by rearranging the letters.

IRELIGOSU PERSON

SEALZOU LEADER

LOFLOWER OF TRADITION

CUTEORPERS OF CHRISTIANS

There is nothing wrong with being a religious person, but Jesus did not come to establish a religion.

**The essence of Christianity is not a religion,
but a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.**

Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas or create a mind map of Galatians 1:10-12 below:

10. From where did Paul receive the gospel that he preached?

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11. Encircle the source of the gospel preached by Paul:

Men Jesus Christ

Read Mark 7:9.

Following traditions is okay UNLESS they go against God's word.

God will not contradict Himself. If there is a conflict between the Bible and tradition, God's word is the authority to follow, not tradition.

Write down, scribble key words, draw symbols for key ideas of Galatians 1:15–16.

12. Below are some words that describe Paul after his encounter with Jesus (see Acts 9:1-19). Again, try to guess the first word of every phrase by rearranging the letters.

EST APART

ALCLDE BY GRACE

REARCHPE OF THE GOSPEL

From a persecutor of Christians, he became the preacher of the gospel!

Paul was changed by God's grace when he met Jesus.

**It does not matter what your past is.
God's grace can forgive you and save you!**

Paul killed Christians but God saved and changed him by grace when Paul believed in Jesus Christ. And God can change you too.

Read Galatians 1:18-20.

13. Who among the apostles did Paul see in Jerusalem?

14. Who is James? See also Mark 6:1-3 and Matthew 13:55–56.

15. How did Jesus have a brother?

*Joseph kept Mary a virgin until Jesus was born
but afterwards they had other sons and daughters.*

Read, write down, scribble key words or draw symbols for key ideas of Galatians 1:22-24

16. How did people respond when they saw changes in Paul's life?

This is what Paul experienced...
**No one can change the true gospel
but the true gospel will change us!**

EXPRESS

Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 1 about the true gospel. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.

Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 1 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What impacted you from the lesson you just learned?

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Describe the gospel of Christ in your own words.

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Why do you think many people have a wrong understanding of the true gospel?

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EXPERIENCE

Do one or do all of these action points for life transformation!



Choose one of the “tear-out” sections of the workbook and post its contents on Facebook, Twitter or text it to a group of your friends.



Read Galatians 2x in a week. Read it out aloud at least once.

Hint: Use an easy to-read version of the Bible like NASB, NIV, ESV or NLT.



Display the “tear-out” sections from the workbook in a highly-visible place at home and at work.

Hint: Whenever someone asks you about it, share what you learned from this study about the true gospel of Jesus Christ.