

GALATIANS

For freedom. Christ set us free

Galatians:

- Paul's first and earliest letter.
- Gallic Celts, Gauls = Galatia
- "Magna Charta of Christian Liberty"
- "the cornerstone of the Protestant Reformation."
- Martin Luther: "Galatians... is my Kathrine."
- Answers the question: "What must I do to be saved?"

Conversation Review:

Galatians 1:1-10 Freedom #1 You have nothing to prove!
Galatians 1:11-24 Freedom #2 God's power can change anyone!

Galatians 1:23-24 They only heard the report: "**The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.**"
And they praised God because of me.

Q: How do people change?

Galatians 2:1-5
Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. **I took Titus along also.** I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. **Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised,** even though he was a Greek. This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks **to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.** We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the **truth of the gospel** might be preserved for you.

Q: What is the big deal for Paul and relevance for us?

Q: Where does morality or goodness come from?

Precept

Matthew 5:21-22 But anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Principle

Brotherly (Agape)
Love

Person

Luke 23:32-34
"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Precept

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Principle

Forgiveness

Person

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Salvation and Moral Transformation is the work of Christ, and HE gets all the credit.

Galatians 2:6-9 **As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message.** On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised.

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.**

Ephesians 2:8-10 God saved you by his grace when you believed. **And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Moral Transformation is more about what we have been given in Christ, than what we give.

Galatians 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

There will always be someone spying how we use this grace and freedom.

Galatians 2:4-5 This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

Continue the Conversation! Here are some questions to get you

- 1) In Galatians, Paul was highlighting his and Titus' transformation as evidence of the transforming work of Christ. How might this highlight how a person's heart changes: 1) through adherence to moral "rules" or 2) through receiving the work of Christ?
- 2) Have you ever met someone who felt like they were "morally superior" to you? What did they base this attitude on and how did it make you feel? Did it make you want to change and be like them?
- 3) How might your life be evidence of God working in you? How might the way you live your life affect the moral life of others?