



Sermon Study Guide

Galatians: The Gospel of Grace

<https://youtu.be/fhZ-9PNQhZg>

Big Idea

Salvation is a gift of 100% grace from God received through 100% faith in Jesus Christ, freeing us from the burden of performance-based legalism.

Understanding the Context

The Book of Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to a group of churches in the region of Galatia. Shortly after Paul established these churches through the gospel of grace, "Judaizers" arrived, teaching that faith in Christ wasn't enough—that Gentile Christians also had to keep the Mosaic Law (like circumcision) to be truly saved. Paul wrote this letter with urgent intensity to defend the true Gospel. This passage connects to the overarching theme of Scripture: that humanity cannot save itself through effort but must rely entirely on God's redemptive work through Jesus.

Core Passage

Galatians 1:6-9; 2:11-21; 3:26-29

Core Principle

We are justified by faith in Christ alone, not by works of the law. True Christian freedom is not an excuse to sin, but a motivation to be led by the Spirit in love.

Day 1: Observe

Scripture Focus

Galatians 1:6-9

Key Insight

Paul is amazed and even livid that the Galatians are deserting the grace of Christ for a "different gospel." He emphasizes that any message adding requirements to the finished work of Jesus is no gospel at all.

Reflection Questions

1. What stood out most to you about Paul's tone in this opening section?
2. What does this teach me about God's desire for us to trust His grace completely?
3. Have I ever felt like I had to "add" something to my faith to be "good enough" for God?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, thank You for the simplicity and power of the Gospel. Help me to rest in Your grace today and reject any thought that I must earn Your love.

Day 2: Understand

Scripture Focus

Galatians 2:11-16

Key Insight

Even the Apostle Peter fell into the trap of legalism by withdrawing from Gentile believers to please the "circumcision party." Paul opposed him because grace plus *anything* equals a distorted gospel that leaves people standing condemned.

Reflection Questions

1. Why was Peter's behavior considered a "distortion" of the Gospel?
2. What misunderstanding about "doing enough" does this truth address in our lives today?
3. How does knowing I am justified by faith change the way I view other people?

Prayer Prompt

Father, forgive me for the times I have looked down on others or felt superior because of my "religious" habits. Remind me that we all stand on the same ground of grace.

Day 3: Examine

Scripture Focus

Galatians 2:20-21

Heart Check Questions

1. Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ." Where do I still struggle to let my "old self" (the part that wants to earn salvation) stay dead?
2. What fears or habits make me rely on my own performance instead of Christ's righteousness?
3. Is the Holy Spirit showing me any area where I am "nullifying the grace of God" by trying to save myself?

Prayer Prompt

Holy Spirit, examine my heart. Show me where I am trusting in my own "goodness" instead of the blood of Jesus.

Day 4: Practice

Scripture Focus

Galatians 5:1, 13-16

Application Questions

1. What is one specific way I can serve someone else through love today, as a response to my freedom in Christ?
2. If I truly believe I am 100% saved by grace, how will that change my stress levels this week?

3. How can I practically "walk by the Spirit" today instead of following the desires of my flesh?

Practice Challenge

Identify one "rule" you've placed on yourself or others that isn't from Scripture. Consciously let go of the pressure of that rule today and focus on loving your neighbor instead.

Prayer Prompt

Jesus, thank You for setting me free. Help me to use my freedom not to please myself, but to serve others in Your name.

Day 5: Live It Out

Scripture Focus

Galatians 3:26-29

Reflection Questions

1. What has God shown me this week about the difference between "legalism" and "obedience from the heart"?
2. How has this study changed the way I think about my identity in Christ (neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free)?
3. What is one ongoing commitment I will make to keep "standing firm" in freedom?

Weekly Commitment

I will start each morning this week by declaring: "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." I will trust His righteousness, not my own.

Principles to Practice This Week

1. **BTO Faith:** Remember that biblical faith is Belief, Trust, and Obedience (specifically expressing faith through baptism and daily following).
2. **Reject the "Enough" Trap:** Stop asking "Have I done enough?" and start resting in the fact that Jesus did it all.

3. **Motivation of Love:** Let your obedience be a "thank you" for grace, not a payment for it.
4. **Walk by the Spirit:** Seek the Spirit's guidance in your interactions rather than just following a checklist of rules.
5. **Clothe Yourself in Christ:** Remember your identity is found in Him, regardless of your background or past.

**"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen."
(Galatians 6:18)**

It is so easy to fall back into a "ladder-climbing" mentality where we feel we must earn God's favor step by step. But as we've seen in [Galatians: The Gospel of Grace](#), the Gospel is about the freedom found in Christ's finished work. Continue to trust in His righteousness this week, and let that faith lead you to love others more deeply than ever before.