

I. Introduction: The Gospel, Paul, and the Other Apostles

A. The Unchanging Nature of the Gospel

1. Theme: The Gospel provides the only path to salvation, and it can never be altered.
2. Text: Galatians 1:1-10
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

B. The Divine Nature of the Gospel

1. Theme: The Gospel of justification by faith alone was not of human origin, but was revealed by God directly to Paul.
2. Text: Galatians 1:11-12
3. Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

C. Paul: Apostle to the Gentiles

1. Theme: Paul was called as an Apostle to the Gentiles, and as such speaks with the full authority of Jesus Himself.
2. Text: Galatians 1:13-2:10
3. Reading: Acts 1:1-8

D. Paul and the Other Apostles

1. Theme: Paul and the other Apostles were united in their understanding of the Gospel and supported one another in their call.
2. Text: Galatians 1:13-2:10
3. Reading: Ephesians 3:2-6

E. Paul, Peter, and Justification by Faith Alone

1. Theme: Paul had to rebuke Peter at Antioch because his actions were undercutting the heart of the Gospel of justification by faith alone.
2. Text: Galatians 2:11-16
3. Reading: Acts 15:5-11

II. The Benefits of the Gospel: Received by Faith Alone

A. Justification by Faith Alone

1. Theme: God declares us to be righteous, not because of our works, but because of the work of Christ in our behalf, which we receive through faith alone.
2. Text: Galatians 2:15-16
3. Reading: Philippians 3:1-11

B. Dead to the Law But Alive to God

1. Theme: We have died to the law but become alive to God, living a new life by faith in Christ.
2. Text: Galatians 2:17-21
3. Reading: Romans 7:1-6

C. The Blessings of Faith

1. Theme: Through faith in Christ we are redeemed from the curse and receive all of the blessings of God.
2. Text: Galatians 3:1-14
3. Reading: Romans 4:1-8

D. The Superiority of Promise Over Law

1. Theme: The law is inferior to God's promise and therefore we should look to God in faith, rather than relying on the law.
2. Text: Galatians 3:15-25
3. Reading: Romans 4:13-17

E. Heirs of God Through Christ

1. Theme: Through Christ, believers are the heirs of all God's covenant blessings.
2. Text: Galatians 3:26-4:7
3. Reading: Romans 8:12-17

F. Excursus: Paul's Ministry to the Galatians

1. Theme: Paul's ministry to the Galatians provides an excellent model for Christians today as they lead others.
2. Text: Galatians 4:8-20
3. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

G. Children of Slavery, Children of Promise

1. Theme: The true seed of Abraham are those born of the Spirit and promise, while those trusting in law are merely slaves.
2. Text: Galatians 4:21-31
3. Reading: Psalm 87

III. How Should We Then Live?

A. Our Freedom in Christ

1. Theme: Christ came to give us true freedom, the ability to be who we were created to be – the image of God, serving others in love.
2. Text: Galatians 5:1-13
3. Reading: Romans 6:15-23

B. Walking by the Spirit

1. Theme: The Spirit enables us to live a Christ-like life, helping us to overcome the flesh in a way the law never could.
2. Text: Galatians 5:16-26
3. Reading: Romans 8:1-11

C. Keeping In Step With the Spirit

1. Theme: As those made alive by the Spirit, we must keep in step with the Holy Spirit, developing a close, personal relationship with Him.
2. Text: Galatians 5:25
3. Reading: John 15:1-8

D. The Life of Freedom in the Spirit

1. Theme: Our life of freedom in the Spirit is one of personal responsibility and mutual care, looking forward to our final reward.
2. Text: Galatians 6:1-10
3. Reading: Romans 15:1-6

E. The Centrality of Christ

1. Theme: Christ is central to the Gospel and true life, and we must proclaim Him as Paul did.
2. Text: Galatians 6:11-18
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

Galatians
2004-2005