

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Galatians and Ephesians

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Introduction–Galatians

- Introduction
 - Author–Paul
 - Ca. AD 50-56 (more likely earlier)
 - Galatian Churches: Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (see Acts 13:14-14:23; 16:1-5)
 - Galatian Controversery (1:6-9; 2:3-5, 11-12; 4:17; 5:2-12; 6:12-15; see Acts 15:1-5)

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Historical/Theological Themes

- Circumcision/uncircumcision
- Gospel
- Cross/Crucify
- Law (31x) and Faith (26x)
- Flesh (18x)
- Justification and Righteousness
- Grace
- Judaizer attacks against Paul—not original apostle, not a complete gospel, loose-living gospel

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Historical/Theological Themes

- Attacks Against Paul (continued):
 - Paul's opponents: the Judaizers
 - Chpt 2—Paul confronted Peter (Cephas)
 - Peter NOT a Judaizer but his actions helped them
 - Key = Galatians 2:20

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Purpose/Structure

- PURPOSE: Paul declared and defended the Gospel of justification by faith in Christ alone and defined the implications of the Gospel for the Galatian believers.
- STRUCTURE:
 1. Justification by Faith Defended (1-2)
 2. Justification by Faith Explained (3-4)
 3. Justification by Faith Applied (5-6)

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Interpretive Issues

- Recipients and Date
 - Northern Galatians in AD 56?
 - Southern Galatians in the 50-56 window
 - Allows coinciding with Acts 15 and Gal 2 as the same meeting
- Gal 4:5 and the future of Israel
 - Irrelevant to Israel since all men are born under the Law?
 - Jesus came to redeem a remnant of Israel as a nation (Rom 9:6)

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Interpretive Issues

- “fallen from grace”—5:4
 - Loss of salvation?
 - Lose standing in grace and fall into legalism?
 - Never saved (See also Heb 6:4-6)

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We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (Galatians 2:15-21, ESV)

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We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified **by works of the law** but through **faith in Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of **the law**, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we were found to be sinners, is Christ a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I have torn down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For since through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God, I have been **crucified** with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in **the flesh** I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **I do not nullify the grace of God**, for if **righteousness** were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (Galatians 2:15-21, ESV)

Gospel
Circumcision
Attack on Paul

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Introduction–Ephesians

- Introduction
 - Author–Paul
 - Date–62
 - Recipients: Church at Ephesus and/or churches around Ephesus

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Historical/Theological Themes

- The church as the body of Christ
- Unity in the body of Christ
- Love –used in verb or noun form 20 times
- By grace you have been saved
- Household instructions
- Sovereign purpose of God in establishing the church
- “Walk” speak of conduct of the believer compared to his pre-salvation life (7x)

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Purpose/Structure

- **PURPOSE:** Gentile Christians were shown their place in the purpose of God for the Church and urged to show the outworking of their call in their conduct.
- **STRUCTURE:**
 1. The Call of the Christian (Doctrine) (1-3)
 2. The Conduct of the Christian (Duties)(4-6)

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Interpretive Issues

- “the gift of God”—Eph 2:8
 - Grace alone is the gift?
 - Faith alone is the gift?
 - Salvation package?—by grace through faith
 - Combo pack of all the above: FAITH, GRACE, SALVATION—all the parts plus the sum of the parts

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Interpretive Issues

- “the lower parts of the earth”—Eph 4:9
 - Depths of the earth in general?
 - The grave?
 - Lower parts which is the earth
 - Christ as the Spirit at Pentecost?
 - Incarnation and death of Christ

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Interpretive Issues

- What are the spiritual gifts of 4:8?
 - Spiritual gifts such as Romans 12 lists?
 - Gifts of men (4:11)
