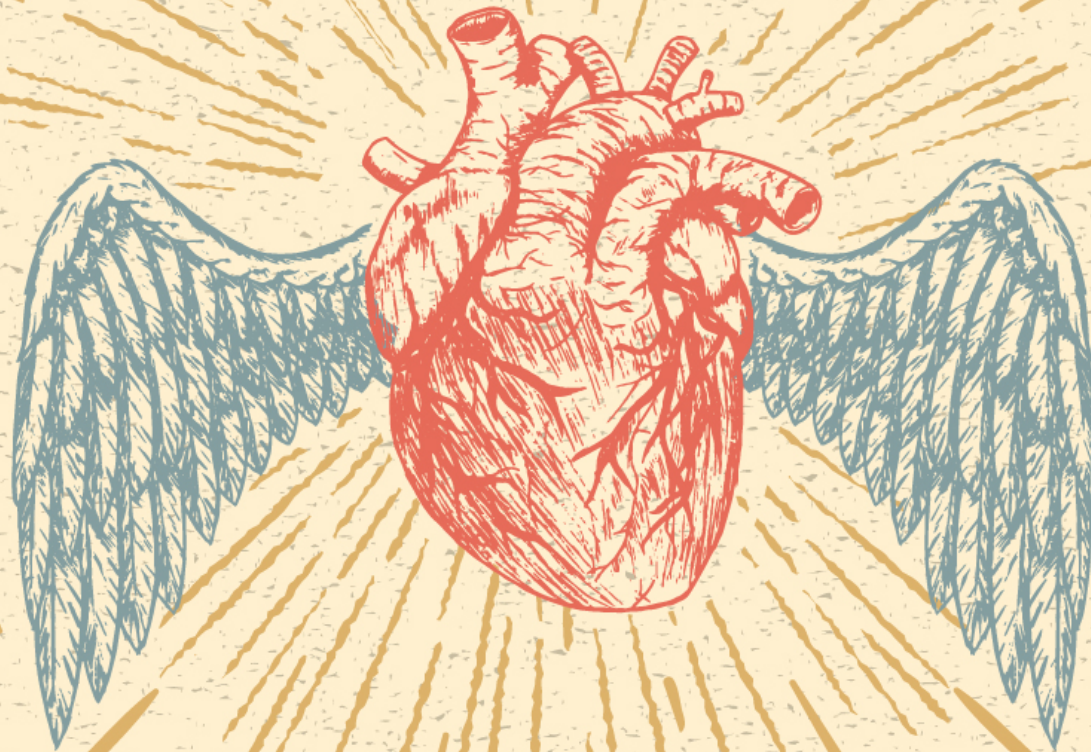


GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL



WEEK 1 | GALATIANS 1:1-10

GUIDANCE IN STUDYING SCRIPTURE:

1. PLAN

"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." Psalm 16:8

Notice the intentionality of the phrase, "I have set." This is active engagement. You have to make a *plan* for reading the Bible or you will fall back into indifference. Program your automatic coffee pot, lay out your Bible, journal and pen and set your alarm clock. You will also need a Bible reading plan; at the end of this study guide there is a reference page with multiple plans you can choose from.

Quick tip: Do everything in your power to not look at your phone the first thing in the morning because then you immediately become preoccupied with the cares of this world.

2. PLEAD

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain." Psalm 119:36

Pray this verse every morning or others of your choosing before reading because our hearts are not inclined to want to focus on Scripture. We want to check our email, the weather and Instagram. *Plead* with the Lord to give you the desire to read His word. Plead with Him to open the eyes of your heart so you can behold His glory in the text. (Psalm 119:18)

3. PLOD

"I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." (Psalm 119:15-16)

"Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." (2 Timothy 2:7)

This may be the most difficult aspect for us. We are a people of instant gratification and the Word of God cannot be treated as such. We need to be trained to *plod* through the Bible; that is, read it slowly, carefully, and methodically.

We are called to be transformed by the renewal of our *mind* (Romans 12:2). Sometimes we can tend to gravitate toward the emotional highs of Bible reading. What happens when the affections run out and we are in a valley? Like a fish out of water we flounder, not knowing what to read, all the time wondering what happened to our emotional high with the Lord.

4. PRIZE

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth." (Psalm 119:103)

Do not be passive as you read the Bible. Look carefully for verses and passages of scripture to *prize*. Look for the treasure hidden in each passage of scripture and then write it down, meditate on it, let your heart enjoy the spiritual truth that you find. Job 23:12 states, *"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food."*

Quick tip: as you read, you are always on the lookout for anything in the text that gives you reason to trust and love Jesus as your greatest treasure.

5. PRAISE

"In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:10-11)

When you are finished reading, look back over what you have written down (if you do decide to journal) and respond to the Lord in *praise* about the truth you have discovered.



WEEK 1 — GALATIANS 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Paul begins his letter clarifying that his apostleship¹ is “not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father.” (v. 1) What is Paul teaching us about the way in which someone becomes an apostle? According to Ephesians 2:19-20, why must apostleship come only by the special appointment of Jesus Christ for the sake of the future of the church?
2. Verses 1-5 are the introduction and greeting of Paul’s letter. The first 3 verses are very typical of Paul’s introduction, but verses 4-5 insert a quick presentation of the gospel. This is found in no other introduction to Paul’s letter. Reading the rest of the passage (v. 6-10), can you think of a good reason why Paul would inject a clear presentation of the gospel in his introduction?
3. Paul explains the gospel in verses 4-5, but he uses an interesting phrase about why Christ gave himself, “to deliver us from the present evil age.” What could this mean if we are technically *still* living in this present evil age? Look up Titus 2:14 for help, since it uses the exact same phrase as Galatians 1:4 (“who gave himself”).

¹ The biblical definition of “apostle” is “one who is sent by Jesus Christ.”



4. Verse 4 says that Christ “gave *himself* for our sins” and that this was “according to the *will* of our God and Father.” Who does Galatians 4:4 say gave Jesus to die? Why do you think it is so important to understand that the gospel was an act of the Son’s will and the Father’s will *together*?
5. In verses 6-7, Paul transitions into his main address after laying out the beauty of the gospel. What is Paul’s emotional state? Why?
6. Read verses 6-7 carefully, is Paul merely saying they are turning from the gospel? Or from something/someone else? How does this help you understand the emotional distress that Paul is in for this church?
7. What all can you conclude about the gospel from this passage?
8. Paul makes plain that people have crept into the church and distorted the gospel. Read Galatians 5:2-4 and identify what exactly they are “adding” to the gospel in order to make us right with God. What is the end result of believing that you can add a condition as small as circumcision?
9. What do you notice about the relationship between verses 8-9? Why would anyone write like this?
10. The literal word for “accursed” Paul uses in verses 8-9 is “anathema,” which simply means damned and cut off from God. Why would Paul make such an incredibly strong statement about someone who distorts the gospel?
11. What does this say about the importance of listening *carefully* to the preacher?
12. Based upon the gravity of what Paul says in verses 8-9, why do you think Paul would feel the need to say verse 10? What does this tell you about the relationship between the fear of God to your willingness to speak the absolute truth of the gospel to your neighbors and family members?

