



TRINITY
CHURCH

Galatians Bible Studies

Trinity Church Adelaide Bible Study Series 2026

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Study 1: The origin of the gospel

Galatians 1:1-24

1. Have you ever received information that turned out to be completely wrong? What happened?
2. From verses 3–5, what does this reveal about the heart of the gospel?
3. In verses 6–10, why does Paul react so strongly to those who preach another gospel?

4. What does Paul's conversion story in verses 11–17 reveal about the origin and power of the gospel?

5. According to verses 18–24, how did Paul's actions and the church's response show the transformative power of the gospel?

Think deeper:

6. From chapter 1, how does Paul defend both his apostleship and the origin of his gospel? Why is that important for the Galatians?

Application:

7. Why do you think people are often attracted to “different gospels” that add human effort, achievement, or regulations?

8. What are some examples of “different gospels” that Christians may be attracted to in our context?

9. Paul cared deeply about believing in the true gospel. How does that challenge the way we view the gospel and heresies today?

Study 2: The authority of the gospel

Galatians 2:1-21

1. Why do people often look to influential leaders to determine what is true?
2. In verses 3–5, why was the question of Titus being circumcised such an important issue? What gospel truth was Paul trying to preserve?
3. From verses 6-10, how did the recognised leaders, including James and Cephas respond to Paul's gospel? Do they challenge or affirm Paul's gospel?
NB: Cephas is another name for Peter who was called by Jesus to be one of his original 12 disciples

4. According to verses 11–14, what did Peter do, why was it not in line with the gospel, and what impact did it have on others?

NB: Cephas eating with gentiles here probably means he was eating unclean food that violates the Old Testament food law.

5. According to verses 15–18, how is a person justified before God? What does Paul say about both Jews and Gentiles under sin? Why can't the law justify sinners?

6. Verses 19 to 21, how does Paul describe how his life has been transformed? Why would seeking righteousness through the law undermine the gospel?

Think deeper:

7. Throughout chapter 2, how does Paul show that the gospel has authority over both apostles and ordinary believers? Why is justification by faith so important that Paul would publicly confront Peter?

Application:

8. We see that even mature Christians like the apostle Peter can stumble. In what areas of life might we affirm the gospel with our words, yet struggle to live consistently with it in practice?

9. Since the gospel has authority over everyone, including apostles, pastors, and missionaries, how can we hold one another accountable to live in line with the gospel?

10. Our obedience to God's commandments cannot be the basis of our salvation. In what ways are we tempted to rely on our own obedience instead of Christ? How does justification by faith both challenge and comfort us as we seek to obey God?

Study 3: The law and the gospel

Galatians 3:1-29

1. What makes someone part of a family: birth, legal documents, shared experiences, or something else?
2. In verses 2-5, why does Paul call the Galatians foolish?
What does Paul rebuke the Galatians for?
NB: the flesh" here particularly refers to relying on circumcision and works of the law
3. According to verses 6–9, how was Abraham considered righteous before God, and who are the true children of Abraham?

4. According to verses 10–14, why does the law bring a curse, and how has Christ redeemed us from it?

5. According to verses 15–25, what is the relationship between God's promise and the law? Why was the law given, and what was it meant to lead people toward?

6. How do verses 26–29 connect back to verses 7–9? According to Paul, who are the true children of Abraham and heirs of God's promise?

Think deeper:

7. How does Paul use Abraham throughout chapter 3 to show that God's people have always been justified by faith and not by works of the law?

Application:

8. Since we are justified by faith rather than the law, what role should God's commands still play in the Christian life?
9. Galatians teaches that all who have faith in Christ are children of Abraham and heirs of God's promises. How should this shape the way we view ourselves and other believers?

10. Paul teaches that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female. What divisions or labels are we tempted to prioritise over our unity in Christ?

Study 4: Slavery and Sonship

Galatians 4:1 - 5:1

1. What is the dish you kept choosing the same time only to later realise there were much better options you never tried?
2. According to verses 1–5, how does Paul describe people before Christ redeemed them, and what were they redeemed from and for?
3. According to verses 6–7, what blessings and privileges come through becoming God's adopted children? How does this change believers' relationship with God?
NB: In the Roman world, adoption was a legal process that could grant an adopted son the same status and inheritance rights as a natural-born son.

4. From verses 8–11, what were the Galatians tempted to return to, and why did Paul believe this endangered the gospel of grace?

NB: the special days, months, seasons, and years mean observing certain days and feasts in the OT calendars or pagan calendars

5. How do verses 12–16 reveal Paul's relationship with the Galatians, and why had some begun to view him as an enemy?

6. According to verses 21–27, what do Hagar and Sarah represent, and how does Paul use them to contrast slavery under the law with freedom through God's promise?

NB: Ishmael was born to Hagar, Sarah's slave woman, through human planning and effort. Isaac was born to Sarah through God's promise despite her old age.

7. According to verses 28–31, whose children are believers?
What does it mean to live as children of the free woman?

8. According to 5:1, what freedom has Christ given believers?
What must they refuse to return to?

Think deeper:

9. How does Paul use the contrast between slavery and sonship throughout chapter 4 to persuade the Galatians not to return to relying on the law?

Application:

10. How should knowing that we are God's adopted children shape the way we relate to God and find our main identity in work/study/retirement?

11. Paul continued to lovingly warn and care for the Galatians even when they resisted the truth. How can we patiently and lovingly help fellow Christians who are drifting away from the gospel?

12. Christ has set believers free from slavery. What are some ways Christians can still fall back into spiritual slavery instead of living in the freedom of the gospel?

Study 5: The freedom in the Spirit

Galatians 5:2-26

1. We are living in Australia, a country that highly values freedom. What does freedom mean to you? Can freedom ever be misunderstood or misused?
2. According to verses 2–6, why is relying on circumcision and the law so serious, and what does Paul say truly counts for those who belong to Christ?
3. In verses 7–12, how does Paul describe the false teachers, and how were they preventing the Galatians from obeying the truth?

4. According to verses 13–18, how should Christians use their freedom, and how does walking by the Spirit help them avoid living according to the flesh?

Verse 19-24

5. Complete the table by identifying examples of the acts of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

Acts of the flesh	Fruit of the Spirit

6. What does crucify with Christ mean to you? Which one of the acts in the table you find hard/easy to follow?

Think deeper:

7. How does Paul show that Christian freedom is neither slavery to the law nor to sin, but a life led by the Spirit?

Application:

1. Christians continually experience conflict between the flesh and the Spirit. What helps us put sinful desires to death and walk by the Spirit?

2. Many people think freedom means doing whatever they want. How is Christian freedom different? What temptations do we face in using freedom to satisfy sinful desires?

3. Looking at the fruit of the Spirit, which area would you most like God to grow in your life, and what might help you keep in step with the Spirit?

Study 6: The gospel community

Galatians 6:1-18

1. What does your ideal community look like? What usually damages communities and relationships?
2. According to 5:25–26, what attitudes and behaviors should believers avoid if they are walking by the Spirit?
3. According to 6:1–5, how should believers respond when another Christian falls into sin?

4. According to verses 6–10, how does Paul use the principle of sowing and reaping to encourage believers to support gospel ministry and persevere in doing good?

NB: sharing all good things and sowing and reaping mean specifically financial support and other material support

5. How does verse 11 show Paul's emotion and emphasis in the end of the letter?

6. According to verses 12–15, what motivates the false teachers, what does Paul boast in instead, and why do circumcision and uncircumcision no longer matter?

7. What stands out to you about Paul's final words and blessing in verses 16–18?

Think deeper:

8. How does the theme of the new creation bring together Paul's teaching about justification by faith, sonship, freedom, and life in the Spirit throughout Galatians?

Application:

1. Paul calls believers to restore one another gently and humbly. Why is this often difficult, and how can we grow in caring for others without becoming judgmental?

2. Galatians 6 teaches that those who teach God's word should be supported. What does our giving reveal about what we value?
3. Since believers are united as God's people in Christ, what things are we tempted to build our identity and unity around instead of the gospel?

Notes:

Pray:

