

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free
Lesson 3 “Maturing in Grace”

I. Introduction - We are continuing through our study through the book of *Galatians* tonight.

A. Introduction

1. Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is. He wrote in a very emphatic and dogmatic and sort of in your face style. Why?
2. He was writing to churches in Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey (*Acts 13-14*). These churches were founded in approximately 48 A.D.
3. Paul wrote Galatians about 3 years after he founded these churches to counter the teaching of the Judaizers. This group of people had come in and begin to say that these Christians had to continue to believe in Jesus but also live by the Mosaic law to be right with God. Watered down the gospel.
4. Paul called their teaching of mixture a different gospel and said that those that taught it were accursed. Strong language.

B. Last week we looked at where Paul got his message of grace from. He said he got it through direct revelation of Jesus. This is important to understand because many of his critics said he must have gotten it from someone else and maybe misheard Peter or James, etc. **Paul was emphatic his message came through divine revelation.**

II. Maturing in Grace

A. **Galatians 1:17-24**

1. Paul says he spent three years in the deserts of Arabia after getting born again. This is where he got a revelation of the Son in him we talked about last week.
2. Paul says he did not go immediately to Jerusalem. He did eventually meet with Peter in Jerusalem, but this is probably after the three years in Arabia.
3. **Acts 9:26-28** After three years Paul spent time with the Apostles and they affirmed his message. This a major confirmation because Paul got his message directly from Jesus and not man, yet when he went and talked with those who walked with Jesus, they said his message was right on.
 - a. I had an experience similar to this when I began to get a hold of the grace message and I was in a legalistic setting. I thought I might be the only person seeing these things until I began to hear people like Andrew Wommack and Kenneth Copeland preach.
 - b. God can speak to us through others and if there is no personal truth from scripture. Any truth we have that is really truth is held by other solid believers elsewhere.

4. **Verses 22-24** Paul began to preach in Syria and Cilicia. He was probably able to do this because they didn't know what he looked like. If they had, they probably would have been afraid and withdrew. ex: **Acts 9:26**
- a. It takes time to demonstrate a lifestyle change where others will receive your testimony.
 - b. Famous celebrities who testified tried to get in ministry too soon and then left the faith or made a mess of things, for example.

B. **Galatians 2:1-10** Defending the Gospel

1. Paul went back to Jerusalem 14 years after his initial visit there. This is probably about the year (somewhere around the year 50 A.D.)
 - a. Went there for a key event in church history (Council of Jerusalem) where they met to determine if we are saved by grace or grace plus keeping the law of Moses.
 - b. **Acts 15:4-21**
2. Paul spoke to the apostles privately which was wise. He wanted them to verify what he was saying. He didn't try to publicly shame the leaders in the church.
3. **Verse 4** How do you come in privately to spy out if a man is circumcised? You are sneaking a peek at the latrine. **That's perverted. Dead religion is perverse. It will make people do messed up things in the name of righteousness.**
5. **Verse 6** Paul said the Apostles didn't add any new truth to the revelation he was given in **Acts 15**.
6. **Verse 7-8** Peter was called to the Jews and Paul was called to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit worked mightily in them to fulfill their calls. **The Holy Spirit will work mightily in you to do that which God has called you to do.**
7. **Verse 9** In that culture the right hand was a place of power, authority and honor. The Apostle gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship to go to the Gentiles. They were going in Apostolic authority and with a blessing!

III. Conclusion - It takes time to establish in the call of God on our lives.

A. Paul had to grow in this truth in the deserts of Arabia and then it took time before others (Apostolic leaders) recognized the grace of God on his life.

B. Call Up Prayer Team

C. Pray Closing Prayer