

No Other Gospel: *an 8-Week Study of Galatians*

The Story Houston's Fall 2020 Discipleship Season

Session Three: The "Gospel" of Works

Introduction

Welcome to our Fall 2020 study of Paul's letter to the Galatians! For eight weeks, we're exploring the words written by the Apostle Paul 1,950 years ago in the year 50 AD. This letter, called *Galatians*, may be the earliest of Paul's thirteen letters that are included in the Bible, and if so, that would make Galatians the oldest book in the New Testament.

Our learning each week is broken down into three categories: First, we'll spend twenty minutes learning about the CONTEXT of Galatians. Second, we'll spend twenty minutes exploring the particular CONFLICT that Paul is addressing in that week's reading. And third, we'll discuss the CORRECTION Paul offers the Galatians to get back on track.

This course has three requirements:

1. Do the work. Read the assigned readings. Write your answers in the Study Guides.
2. Listen to *The Story at Home Podcast* for more in-depth teachings on Galatians.
3. Ask questions. Ask the teachers on Wednesday nights. Ask your Group leaders and fellow members. Ask God in prayer.

Question from Last Week:

Are there levels to God's judgment, and are Paul and James speaking to different tiers?

This Week's Text

Read Galatians 3:1-14 twice, once silently and once aloud, making notes of any words and phrases that you're not sure about, and writing down any questions that immediately come to mind.

Context

Why did Paul write this letter to the Galatians?

What were the specific “works” Paul mentioned in chapters 1 and 2 that had been added to faith in Christ as a means of justification?

What was Paul’s personal manifesto as stated in Galatians 2:20? What did he mean?

Conflict

What is Paul’s tone at the beginning of chapter 3? What does this say about the importance of the issue at hand?

What in Galatians 3:1-5 gives a sense that Paul did not think the Galatian error was lack of knowledge?

What rhetorical questions did Paul ask in 3:2-5? What answer was he looking for to each of the questions?

What was Paul’s point in asking the questions he did? Why was he so angry with the Galatians?

Have you ever been in a season when your walk with Christ moved from faith to self-effort?

What do you think it means to live by faith instead of self-effort in the day to day?

Correction

Why would Paul turn to the life of Abraham in defense of his position?

What does Genesis 15 tell us about the time when righteousness was credited to Abraham?

How does Genesis 12:2-3 provide a peek at the gospel?

Why is the law an insufficient means to make us right with God?

How did "the curse" placed on Christ provide an opportunity for both Jew and Gentile to receive the promise of the Spirit?

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

- Galatians 3:7