

Galatians

Week 10 Homework

Reading

Read through all of Galatians once during the week, if possible. Make a list of questions you have as you read.

Read Galatians 5:1-15 each day this week, writing down your observations. Look for repeated words, attributes of God, transition words, and note any confusing or unknown words.

Questions

1. The freedom in verse 1 is meant to be a way of life for Christians. If we have placed our faith and trust in Christ for salvation, what have we been freed from?

Note from the MacArthur commentary: “Yoke” refers to the apparatus used to control a domesticated animal. The Jews thought of the ‘yoke of the law’ as a good thing, the essence of true religion. Paul argued that for those who pursued it as a way of salvation, the law was a yoke of slavery.

A. Look up Matthew 11:28-30. Write down 3 words that describe your thoughts after reading these verses:

B. How would you explain the difference between the yoke that Jesus offers, with the yoke of slavery to obeying the law as a way to earn your salvation?

2. Read verses 2-4 carefully. In each of these three verses, Paul lists a result or consequence of relying on the law (“accepting circumcision”) instead of relying on Jesus. What are they?

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

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3. Paul writes of a different way to live for the Christian in verses 5-6. Try to summarize, or re-write these two verses in your own words:

A. What word do you find repeated in each verse?

B. Look up Hebrews 11:1 and copy it here:

Does this help you understand how to 'live out' your faith a bit more? If so, how?

4. In verse 7, Paul uses the descriptive word "running." To what is he referring with this word? (See Galatians 2:2 for another place Paul uses this same terminology.)

A. As we have seen often, Paul asks a question to get his listeners to think. We already know the answer to his question, "Who hindered you from obeying the truth?"; but, to what truth is he referring, specifically? (See Galatians 2:5, 2:14, and 4:16 if you need help).

5. Verse 8, mentions, "This persuasion..." - what does he mean by this word? Look a little farther, to verse 13 for help.

Another word picture is used in verses 9-10 - leaven. This is another word for yeast, an ingredient used for making bread rise. Without yeast, or leaven, what is baked would resemble a cracker or a hard, flat bread. We will address it more in the lesson, but it was often used as an example of influence. See also: 1 Cor. 5:6, Mark 8:15, and also, Matthew 13:33.

Verses 11-12 contain the final question that Paul will ask in this letter to the Galatians, and he answered it himself in the strongest of terms! Apparently, the Judaizers must have falsely claimed that Paul agreed with their position on needing to be circumcised. Here he clearly refutes that, explaining that if that were true, he wouldn't still be persecuted by them.

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6. What do you suppose the phrase, "...the offense of the cross..." means? In what way was the cross offensive to the Jewish leaders?

One of the strongest themes in Galatians is the theme of freedom, namely the freedom that we have in Christ, by God's grace, through our faith in Him.

7. As we close out the final verses of our study this week, what danger do you see identified in verses 13-15?

Based on what you've learned so far, can you think of at least one way to overcome that danger?