Paul's Epistle to the GALATIANS

Donald Townsley

© 2019
OUTLINE OF GALATIANS

I. Introduction
1. The Apostle Paul is the author of this book (Gal. 1: 1-2; 6:11).
2. Paul addresses the book to the churches of Galatia (Gal. 1:2).
   i. Galatia is the name given to the region of central Asia Minor.
3. The churches of Galatia were established by the Apostle Paul on his first preaching journey (Acts 13 & 14).
   i. These churches were located in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

II. The Date of the Book
1. The book of Galatians was written after the meeting in Jerusalem to settle the matter of circumcision as recorded in Acts 15 and Galatians 2: 1 – 10 (49/50 A.D.). *see notes on this meeting on pg. 19 of this book.
2. Roy Cogdill says: “Many of the scholars think Galatians fits in between 2 Corinthians and Romans as to date, and that it was, therefore, probably written between 55 and 57 A.D.” (New Testament Survey)

III. Purpose of the Letter
1. The Galatian churches had done well in the beginning. Paul said “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” (Gal. 5:7).
2. The Problem: A Perversion of the Gospel
   i. Soon after Paul left these churches Judaizing teachers came in and had drawn them away from the truth into error (Gal. 1: 6 – 9) – the same form of error that was taught at Antioch of Syria (Acts 15:1).
      1. That all Gentile converts had to have fleshly circumcision as practiced by the Jews under the Law of Moses if they were to be saved (Acts 15:1).
      2. It is this error that Paul deals with in this letter.
         a. Paul argues that “a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, . . . : for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal. 2:16).
   ii. These Judaizing teachers had also made an attack on the apostleship of Paul.
      1. They tried to destroy confidence in him as an apostle of Christ.
      2. If they could do this, they could more easily influence the people who had been converted by him.

IV. The Letter Falls into Three (3) Natural Divisions.
1. **PART ONE: Chapters One and Two**
   
i. In chapters one and two Paul makes arguments affirming:
   
   1. That the gospel he preached was by the revelation of Christ, and
   2. That his apostleship was by Jesus Christ and God.
   
   a. Paul’s apostleship and the gospel he preached must stand together – what he preached could have **no more weight** than the **authority behind it**.

   ii. In verse one he affirmed that his apostleship was “*(not of men, neither by men, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.)*”

   iii. PersonalGreetings (Gal. 1: 2 – 5).

   
   1. Paul expresses astonishment that they were “*so soon removed*” from the gospel (Gal. 1: 6).
   2. He said what they were receiving was **not** the gospel, but a perversion of it (Gal. 1:7).
   3. He said of those who preached this perverted gospel, whether an angel or man, “*let him be accursed*” (Gal. 1: 8 – 9).
   4. Paul states that his aim, his purpose, was **not** to please men, but to **please God** (Gal. 1:10).

   v. Paul’s defense of his apostleship and of the gospel he preached:
   
   1. He affirmed that the gospel he preached was of divine origin (Gal .1: 11 – 12).
   
   a. His early life was contrary to the gospel (Gal. 1: 13 – 14).
   
   b. He could not have originated the gospel he preached.

   2. His separation, his call and his early preaching was **not** from men (Gal. 1: 15 – 17).
   
   a. “*called me by his grace*” refers to his conversion – he was called by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).
   
   i. Paul became a child of God in the same manner as all men have become Christians – by believing, repenting, confessing Christ and being baptized to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6: 3 – 4).
   
   ii. Paul’s conversion is recorded in Acts 9: 6 – 18.

   b. “*God, who separated me from my mother’s womb,*” (Gal. 1:15).
   
   i. At the time of Paul’s birth God determined to use him as a special messenger to Christ.
   
   ii. This was not made known to him until Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 26: 14 – 18; 9: 15 – 16).
   
   iii. Paul was separated to this work from his mother’s womb just as John the Baptist (Luke 1: 1 – 17), Isaiah (Isaiah 49:1) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1: 5) were for the work God had for them to do.
c. He saw no apostle for three (3) years after his conversion (Gal. 1: 17 – 18).
   i. He didn’t stay long enough to learn from the apostles (Gal. 1: 18 – fifteen days; Acts 9: 26 – 30; 22: 17 – 21).

d. After he went to Jerusalem for fifteen days, he then went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia (Gal. 1: 21 – 24).

e. He said, “fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem . . . And I went up by revelation,” (Gal.2: 1,2).
   i. He did not go up to Jerusalem to be instructed by the apostles.
   ii. He went to confer with them about preaching the gospel to the Gentiles.
   iii. When he conferred, he found that there was no conflict between them and himself concerning divine revelation (Gal. 2: 1 – 10).

f. Another proof Paul gives to sustain his apostolic authority and to show that he was not dependent upon other apostles was the fact that he had rebuked Peter in this same matter (the question of circumcision – Gal. 2: 11 – 21).
   i. Peter’s behavior was inconsistent (Gal. 2: 11 – 13).
   ii. Paul’s rebuke of Peter was an open one – “before them all”. (Gal. 2:14).
   iii. It was not sin to abandon the Law for Christ. It is sin to build up the Law again after tearing it down (Gal. 2:18).

iv. Paul pointed out that he was brought by the Law to Christ (Gal. 2: 19 – 20; John 5: 39, 46; 2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 7:1 – 6; Gal. 3:24).
   v. Paul said the course he took did not make void the grace of God as Peter’s course did (Gal. 2: 21).

vi. Paul has vindicated his apostleship and the gospel he preached.
   1. He was indeed an apostle of Christ, and the gospel he preached a revelation of Jesus Christ.

2. PART TWO: Chapters 3 through 5:12
   i. In the second part of the letter Paul shows that God’s way of making men righteous is by faith in Christ, and not by the Law of Moses.
      1. They had not received the Spirit by the works of the Law, but by the hearing of faith (Gal. 3:1 – 5).
      2. Abraham an example of one who was justified by faith (Gal. 3: 6 – 9).
      3. The Law of Moses could not justify sinners, it condemned (Gal. 3: 10 – 12).
      4. Men are relieved from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:10) by Christ (Gal. 3: 13 – 14).
5. The promise (the covenant) made with Abraham (before the Law of Moses was given) could not be set aside by the Law of Moses (Gal. 3: 15 – 17).

6. To teach that inheritance was by the Law of Moses would set aside the promise given to Abraham (Gal. 3: 18).

7. The Law of Moses had a definite but temporary purpose (Gal. 3: 19 – 29).
   a. It was added because of transgressions (Gal. 3; 19 – 20) “till the seed should come”.
   b. The Law was not contrary to the promise (Gal. 3: 21 – 22).
   c. The Law was to guide men to Christ (Gal. 3: 23 – 24).
   d. “But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” (Gal. 3:25).

8. After “that faith is come” both Jew and Gentile are made children of God in the same way –
   a. “by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3: 26 – 29).
   b. All who have been baptized into Christ are “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3; 27 – 29).

9. Deliverance from the Law illustrated (Gal. 4: 1 – 7):
   a. Before Christ the Jews were like a child who has not received his inheritance but is kept under tutors and governors; but now in Christ they have arrived at full age and are given possession of the inheritance (Gal. 4: 1 – 7).
   b. Paul warns the Gentile Christians (who had been led out of the bondage of idolatry) about now being turned into another bondage – that of Judaism—which was just as displeasing to God as idolatry (Gal. 4: 9 – 11).

10. An Affectionate Appeal (his arguments interrupted briefly) (Gal. 4: 12 – 20).
   a. To follow his example (Gal. 4:12).
   b. They had received him well (Gal. 4: 13 – 14).
   c. They had regarded him highly (Gal. 4: 15).
   d. Paul had told them the truth about turning back to the Law, then he asks the question: “Am I therefore become you enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4: 16).
   e. He pointed out that the zeal of the Judaizers was selfish (Gal. 4: 17 – 18).
   f. His tender affection and painful anxiety (Gal. 4:19 – 20).

11. The Law and the Gospel in allegory (Gal. 4: 21 – 31):
   a. Hagar and Sarah represent two covenants:
      i. Hagar, the bondwoman – the old covenant (Gal. 4:24).
      ii. Sarah, the freewoman – the new covenant (Gal. 4:24).

12. To return to the Law of Moses is to abandon Christ (Gal. 5: 1 – 12).
a. Children of the “freewoman” (Gal. 4:31), or gospel, are commanded to stay free (Gal. 5:1).
   i. If circumcised, Christ is no profit to them (Gal. 5:2).
   ii. If circumcised, a debtor to do the whole law (Gal. 5:3).
   iii. If they did the works of the Law of Moses to be justified, they were “fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4).

b. True basis of hope is in Christ Jesus (Gal. 5: 5 – 6).

13. Someone had hindered their good start (Gal. 5: 7).
   a. It was not Christ (Gal. 5:8), nor Paul.
   b. Dangerous leaven (Gal. 5: 9).
   c. Paul expressed confidence in them that they would do as they had been taught (Gal. 5: 10).
   d. The charge that he (Paul) preached circumcision is false (Gal. 5:11).
   e. Paul wished the Judaizers were “cut off” from them (Gal. 5:12).

3. PART THREE: Chapters 5:13 through 6
   i. The third part of the Galatian letter is practical.
      1. They were to avoid strife and to love one another (Gal. 5: 13 – 15).
      2. They were to “walk in the Spirit” and crucify the flesh (Gal. 5: 16 – 21, 24).
         a. To “walk by the Spirit” or “in the Spirit” is to walk by the revelation given by the Spirit, the New Testament.
         b. To crucify the flesh is to put to death the works of the flesh (Gal. 5: 19 – 21, 24).
         c. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5: 22 – 23).
         d. Having crucified the flesh, they must be guided by Spirit (Gal. 5: 24 – 26).
      3. The Christian’s attitude toward an erring brother (Gal. 6: 1 – 5):
         a. To restore such an one (Gal. 6: 1).
         b. To bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2).
         c. Take warning about self-deception (Gal. 6:3).
         d. Every man to prove his own work (Gal. 6:4).
         e. Each to carry his own burden (Gal. 6:5).
      4. The duty of the Christian toward those who teach the gospel (Gal. 6:6).
      5. Sowing and Reaping (Gal. 6:7 – 8).
      6. Steadfastness necessary (Gal. 6: 9).
      7. We must do good to all, especially to brethren (Gal. 6:10).
      8. Paul wrote this letter with his own hand (Gal. 6: 11).
      9. Paul says that the object of the Judaizer was to avoid persecution, and to “glory in the flesh” (Gal. 6: 12 – 13).
10. Christians should glory in the cross of Christ by which they are separated from the world (Gal. 6: 14 – 15; 5:24).

11. Paul invokes a blessing upon all who would “walk according to this rule” (Gal. 6: 16).

12. Paul freely admits that he is a servant of Jesus Christ and that the marks (brands) could be seen in his flesh (Gal. 6: 17).

GALATIANS CHAPTER ONE

QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote the book of Galatians?
2. Paul’s apostleship was by whom?
3. Was his apostleship under attack?
4. Who was making the attack on his apostleship?
5. Give Paul’s former name (Acts 13:9):
6. When did Paul establish these churches:

7. To whom does Paul address this letter?
8. Where were these churches located:

9. Name other times that Paul visited these churches:

10. Does Paul generally use the expression in verse 3 to introduce his letters?
11. Whose will was it that Jesus Christ die for our sins?
12. To whom are we to give glory forever?
13. What caused Paul to marvel?

14. What had the Judaizers done to the gospel by combining the Law of Moses with it? (verse 7)

15. What about a man or an angel who would preach another gospel?

16. Could Paul seek to please men and be a servant of Christ?

17. How did Paul receive the gospel he preached?

18. What did Paul do to the church before his conversion? (Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1 – 2)

19. How had Paul profited in the Jew’s religion?

20. What was Paul exceedingly zealous for?
21. What is the meaning of the expression “who separated me from my mother’s womb”? _____
_______________________________________________________________________________
22. What does the expression “called me by his grace” mean? ______________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
23. Who was Paul to preach the gospel to (what people)? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
24. Did Paul confer with flesh and blood or the other apostles before he started preaching? __
__________________________________________________________________________________
25. Where did Paul first go to preach after his conversion? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
26. How many years was it after his conversion that he went to Jerusalem? _________________
27. Who did he see in Jerusalem? ________________________________
28. How many days did he stay with Peter? ________________________________
29. Who else did he see on this visit? ________________________________
30. Why does Paul make the statement “before God, I lie not”? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
31. After Paul’s trip to Jerusalem, into what regions did he go to labor? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
32. What churches did not know Paul by face? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
33. What had these churches heard about Paul? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
34. When did Paul get to be known “by face” to the churches of Judea (Acts 11: 27 – 30; 26:20)?
__________________________________________________________________________________
35. In whom did these churches glorify God? ________________________________
GALATIANS CHAPTER TWO

QUESTIONS

1. After fourteen years, why did Paul, Barnabas, and Titus go to Jerusalem? (verse 1; Acts 15: 1 – 2)

2. Who determined that Paul should go to Jerusalem?

3. How did Paul describe those with whom he met privately?

4. What did they try to compel Titus to do?

5. Was Titus a Jew?

6. Into what bondage were they trying to bring them? (verse 4; Acts 15:1, 10; Rom. 7:4; 8:2 – 3; Gal. 5:1)

7. Did Paul yield to the pressure of the Judaizers at any time?

8. Did those “who seemed to be somewhat” tell Paul anything he did not know already?

9. Who was the apostle to the Jews?

10. Who was the apostle to the Gentiles?

11. Was there any difference in the gospel that Peter preached and the gospel that Paul preached? (Acts 15: 7 – 9)

12. What is “liberty in Christ”?

13. What did James, Cephas, and John do to Paul and Barnabas when they perceived that they were all preaching the same gospel?

14. Who did they want Paul to remember?

15. Why did Paul withstand Peter to the face at Antioch?

16. Did Paul do this publicly?

17. What question did Paul ask Peter?

18. What kind of works will not justify a man? (Gal. 5:6; Rom. 16: 26; James 2:17, 21 – 24)

19. What kind of faith justifies?

20. Explain in your own words the meaning of Galatians 2:18:
21. How did Paul “through the law” die unto the law? (John 5: 39,46; Deut. 18: 18 – 19; Rom. 8:1 – 4)
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

22. How was Paul crucified with Christ? (verse 20; Rom. 6: 3,4, 6) ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

23. How does Christ live in us? (Eph. 3:17) _____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

24. If righteousness is through the Law, what about the death of Christ? _____________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
GALATIANS CHAPTER THREE

QUESTIONS

1. Who had bewitched the Galatians? ________________________________________________

2. How was Jesus Christ crucified before the eyes of the Galatians? (I Cor. 1:23) ________________

3. How had they received the Spirit? __________________________________________________________________________

4. After beginning “in the Spirit”, how were they seeking to advance their spiritual lives? (verse 3) __________________________________________________________________________

5. If they yielded to the pressure of the Judaizing teacher, would their suffering for Christ be in vain?

6. How did God work miracles among them? __________________________________________________________________________

7. Was Abraham’s faith that was accounted to him for righteousness a working faith or a faith only? (Heb. 11:8; James 2: 21-24) __________________________________________________________________________

8. Who are the children of Abraham? __________________________________________________________________________

9. In what way did the scriptures foresee that God would justify the Gentiles? __________________________________________________________________________

10. What was the promise that God made to Abraham? __________________________________________________________________________

11. What is the reward of those “which be of faith”? __________________________________________________________________________

12. Why were all who lived under the Law living under a curse? (Deut. 27:26; Rom. 3:23; Heb. 10:1-4) __________________________________________________________________________

13. Are the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ two different systems? (verse 12) __________________________________________________________________________

14. What did the Law demand if one was to be justified by it? __________________________________________________________________________


16. How do men treat a covenant made by man? __________________________________________________________________________

17. Who does the “Seed” refer to in the promise to Abraham? __________________________________________________________________________

18. Could the Law make the Promise of none effect? __________________________________________________________________________

19. Is the inheritance “of the Law” or “of the promise”? __________________________________________________________________________

20. How long after the Promise was the Law given? __________________________________________________________________________

21. Who was the mediator of the Law? __________________________________________________________________________
22. Could the Law of Moses give life? ________________________________

23. The promise by faith in Jesus Christ is given to whom? ________________________________

24. Who were kept in “ward” or under guard by the Law? ________________________________

25. The Law was a schoolmaster to bring the Jews to whom? ________________________________

26. Since faith has come, are men any longer under a schoolmaster (the Law)? ________________________________

27. By what were the Galatians children of God? ________________________________

28. How does one get into Christ? ________________________________

29. Do all men and women enjoy the same spiritual blessings in Christ? ________________________________

30. Where must one be to be Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise? ________________________________
GALATIANS CHAPTER FOUR

QUESTIONS

1. The "heir" and the "bondservant" are alike for how long? ____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

2. To whom must the heir yield in authority as long as he is a child? _________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What was the condition of the heirs of Abraham according to the promise while the Law was in force?
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

4. When did God send forth His Son into the world? ________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

5. What did Christ do for those who were under the Law? __________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

6. The process by which God makes us His children is called what? (verse 5) _________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Since Christ is come they are "no more a servant, but ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

8. As adopted children will they share fully and equally in God’s inheritance? (verses 6, 7; Rom. 8: 16, 17)
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

9. Before they knew God in what condition were they? _____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

10. How is the Law (to which Judaizing teachers were trying to turn them) described? (verse 9) _______
    ___________________________________________________________________________________________

11. What were they doing that caused Paul to say “I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you
    labor in vain.”? ___________________________________________________________________________

12. What does Paul beseech them to do? _______________________________________________________________________

13. What did Paul say he had when he first preached to them? _____________________________________

14. How did they receive Paul when he first preached to them? _____________________________________

15. How much did they love him when he first preached to them? ___________________________________

16. Will telling people the truth make enemies? _____________________________________________________

17. Were the motives of the Judaizers impure in cultivating the Galatians? (verse 17) _________________

18. Is it well to be excited to zeal in a good thing? ________________________________________________

19. Was Paul striving with anxiety to bring them back to Christ? (verse 19) __________________________

20. What was the spiritual condition of the Galatian Christians? (verse 20) _________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________________

21. What question did Paul ask those who desired to be under the Law? ______________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________________
22. Name the two sons of Abraham: ________________________________

23. Tell what the difference was in the birth of these two sons: ________________________________

24. What law and what people do Hagar and her son typify? (verses 24 – 25) __________________

25. To what does the “Jerusalem which is above” refer? (verses 26 – 27; Heb. 12: 22 – 24) __________

26. What law and who does Sarah and Isaac typify? (verse 28) ________________________________

27. By whom were the Christians to be persecuted? (verse 29) ________________________________

28. Give the meaning of verse 30: __________________________________________________________

29. Whose “children” are Christians? ____________________________________________________________
GALATIANS CHAPTER FIVE

QUESTIONS

1. The Galatians were set free by whom? ____________________________________________

2. In what did Paul tell them not to be entangled again? __________________________________

3. If they went back to the Law and were circumcised, would Christ be of any profit to them? ______

4. If a man obeyed one command of the Law, how much of the Law was he bound to heed? ______

5. What is the condition of the person who attempts to keep the Law as well as to serve Christ? ______

6. Does the hope of righteousness come through the Spirit (the gospel – Col. 1:23) or the Law of Moses? ________________________________________________________________

7. What kind of faith saves? (verse 6; James 2:24; Rom. 1:5) ________________________________

8. In what were the Galatians being hindered? __________________________________________

9. From where did their disobedience come? ____________________________________________

10. What can one false teacher do to an entire congregation? (verse 9) _____________________________

11. Did Paul believe that the Judaizers would succeed in Galatia? (verse 10) ____________________

12. What would happen to the Judaizer? (verse 10b) _________________________________________

13. What had some accused Paul of still preaching? (verse 11) _________________________________

14. What fact proved that he was not preaching circumcision? (verse 11) _________________________

15. What did Paul wish about the trouble-makers (the Judaizers)? _____________________________

16. What had they been “called unto”? ______________________________________________________

17. By what were they to serve one another? ________________________________________________

18. All the law is fulfilled in what word? (verse 14) __________________________________________

19. Can a congregation be destroyed by strife and fighting among the members? ________________

20. What would keep them from fulfilling the lust of the flesh? ________________________________

21. What does Paul say are contrary the one to the other? _________________________________

22. If they were “led of the Spirit” were they under the Law? __________________________________

23. Define the works of the flesh:
   • Adultery: ________________________________________________________________
• Fornication:  ____________________________________________________________
• Uncleaness:  ____________________________________________________________
• Lasciviousness:  _________________________________________________________
• Idolatry:  ______________________________________________________________
• Witchcraft or sorcery:  ____________________________________________________
• Hatred or Enmities:  _______________________________________________________
• Variance, Contention:  ____________________________________________________
• Emulations or Jealousy:  __________________________________________________
• Wrath:  _________________________________________________________________
• Strife or selfish ambition:  ________________________________________________
• Dissension or division:  __________________________________________________
• Heresies:  _______________________________________________________________
• Envyings:  ______________________________________________________________
• Murders:  ________________________________________________________________
• Drunkenness:  ___________________________________________________________
• Reveling (Revelries):  ____________________________________________________

24. What will happen to people who do these things?  _______________________________________________________

25. **List** the fruit of the Spirit and **define** the terms:  _______________________________________________________

26. They that are Christ’s have done what?  _______________________________________________________________

27. If we “live in the Spirit” how are we to walk?  __________________________________________________________

28. What are Christians **not** to do? (verse 26)  ___________________________________________________________
GALATIANS CHAPTER SIX

QUESTIONS

1. What is the duty of every Christian toward a brother overtaken in a fault? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

2. In what manner should we restore a brother? ______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What warning is given to those who seek to restore a brother? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

4. When we help a brother bear his burden what do we fulfill? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

5. When is a Christian deceiving himself? __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. What is every man to do? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

7. Will a man be judged by his works in comparison with that done by others (verse 5)? __________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

8. What is the duty of the man who is taught toward the teacher? (verse 6) __________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

9. If a man thinks he can mock God, who is deceived? _____________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

10. List some ways men think they can mock God (I Cor. 15:33; Matt. 7: 21 – 23): ______________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

11. What will a man reap if he sows to the flesh? _________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

12. What will a man reap if he sows to the Spirit? _________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

13. In what must we not become weary? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

14. What is the condition of reaping? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

15. We as Christians are to do good to whom? __________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

16. Who actually wrote (penned) this letter? ______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

17. Why were the Judaizers trying to compel them to be circumcised? (verse 12) ______________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

18. Did those who were circumcised keep the Law themselves? (verse 13) __________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

19. What did Paul glory in? __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

20. What is the symbolic meaning of “the cross” as Paul used the term? (I Cor. 1: 18,23) __________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________________________

22. How does one become a new creature? _______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
23. What did Paul say about those who “walk according to this rule”? 

24. What did Paul say he bear in his body? 

Discussion on Circumcision in Acts:

ACTS 15
The Question of Authority

1. The question arose over circumcision.
   a. “Certain men” arose in the church and taught that the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be saved.
      i. Circumcision was part of the Law.
         1. It was a sign of the covenant made with Abraham, and was to be perpetuated as a sign of membership in that covenant.
         2. All males were circumcised the eighth day (Lev. 12:3).
         3. Circumcision was a prerequisite of their observing the Passover Feast (Ex. 12:48).
      ii. Certain of the sect of the Pharisees had become members of the church and were teaching this doctrine (Acts 15:5).
         1. Paul calls them “false brethren” (Gal. 2:4–5).
         2. Judaizers: These Judaizers would have destroyed the church if Paul and others had not stood.
            a. Men must stand today concerning:
               i. Worldliness
               ii. Institutionalism
               iii. Indifference
               iv. Divorce for any cause – and remarriage.
      3. The Judaizers went to Antioch to teach their false doctrine (15:1).
      4. Barnabas and Paul knew the truth concerning this matter, and had quite a discussion with them (15:2).
      5. Some at Antioch wanted Paul, Barnabas, “and certain other of them” to go to Jerusalem to the apostles about the matter (15:2).
         a. Paul went because God sent him (Gal. 2:2).
         b. He took Titus as a test case (Gal. 2:3).
         c. The church at Antioch paid the expenses for this trip (15:3).
      6. On the way to Jerusalem they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria and told of the conversion of the Gentiles (15:3).
      7. When they got to Jerusalem they were received of the church.
         a. They declared all things that God had done with them (15:4).
8. Then the Judaizers ("certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed") rose up, saying that:
   a. The Gentiles should be circumcised, and
   b. Keep the law of Moses.

9. The apostles and elders came together to consider this matter (15:6).

b. Peter’s Speech
   i. God directed Peter to go to the Gentiles (15:7).
   ii. God endorsed the reception of the Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit (15:8).
   iii. Faith produced the exact same effect in both Jew and Gentile (15:9).
   iv. Therefore, “why tempt ye God,” (15:10).
      1. To put a yoke upon the Gentiles that the Jews were not able to bear (15:10).
   v. Salvation is by grace (15:11).

c. Paul and Barnabas speak:
   i. Told of the continuance of the work that Peter had begun among the Gentiles (15:12).

d. James speaks – mentions Peter’s speech (15:14).
   i. Said Peter’s speech fit in with what the prophets had written (Amos 9:11).
      1. James said the prophets agreed (15:15).
      2. He quotes only one prophet, Amos (Amos 9:11).
   ii. James’ conclusion:
      1. Verse 19: “That we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:”.
         a. Don’t trouble them with the Law of Moses.
      2. Verse 20: “But that we write unto them, that they abstain from:
         a. “Pollutions of idols”
         b. “from fornication”
         c. “From things strangled”
         d. “from blood”
      3. Verse 21 seems to be saying that the Jews had these instructions in the Law of Moses.
         a. These things were not wrong because they were in the Law of Moses, but because it is the Law of God NOW.

e. James’ conclusions pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church (15:22).

f. The apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to select some of their own brethren (Judas and Silas) to accompany Paul and Barnabas to Antioch with letters stating the decision reached in Jerusalem.
   i. The authority of the Holy Spirit accompanies the decision written in the letter (15:28), showing that the decision reached was the will of God.
   ii. These were inspired letters.

g. These inspired letters were sent out to:
   i. Antioch
   ii. Syria
   iii. Cilicia (15:23).

h. The letters said they gave no such commandment “ye must be circumcised, and keep the law:” (15:24; 15:1).
   i. These were false teachers.
   ii. Their teaching would subvert (ruin, destroy) their souls.
1. We learn that where there is no commandment, there can be no action and please God (15:24).

i. The letters said that no burden was to be placed upon the Gentile Christians other than what the Holy Spirit placed upon them – only such “necessary things” were required by the Holy Spirit:

i. Four things they were to abstain from:

1. “meats offered to idols” (I Cor. 8: 4 – 13)
2. “from blood” (Lev. 17: 13 – 14; Gen.9:4)
   a. Christians are not to eat blood.
3. “from things strangled”
   a. The blood must be drained from the body of the animals we use for food.
4. “from fornication” (15:29)
   a. Fornication violates the purpose for which God made the body (I Cor. 6: 13 – 20).
      i. God’s plan for man’s sexual needs is marriage (I Cor. 7:1 – 5; Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:1 – 9; One flesh (Gen. 2:24)).
   b. Fornication destroys homes (Matt. 19:9).
   c. Fornication will cause the soul to be lost eternally (Gal. 5: 19 – 21).

j. The epistle delivered caused rejoicing (15:31).

k. The two men who came from Jerusalem to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas were Judas and Silas (15:27).
   i. They were prophets (inspired) – Acts 15: 32; Eph. 3:5.
   ii. After they had been there awhile, they were “let go” to go back to the apostles in Jerusalem (15:33).
   iii. Silas did not want to go back – he stayed (15:34).

l. Paul and Barnabas continued in Antioch – teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord – with many others (15:35).