

Galatians: Our Position in Christ

Paul's message in Galatians is direct and forceful. He makes it clear that his involvement in ministry was because of _____, not _____. In Gal. 1:1, Paul said, "*Paul, an apostle-not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father.*" What does it mean to be called of God? Another important subject in Paul's letter is _____. Paul said, "*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen*" (Gal. 1:3-5). Paul's message never strayed far from Jesus' death, our sins, the present ungodly age, and God's glory.

Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews have one _____ verse in common. Habakkuk 2:4 reads, "*The righteous shall live by faith.*" The three New Testament books place an emphasis on different words in the verse. The Book of Romans focuses on "*the righteous,*" telling us how to be right with God. The Letter of Galatians focuses on "*shall live,*" meaning how-to live-in Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews focuses on "*by faith,*" indicating that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). In Galatians, Paul makes it clear what the Christian life is like. And one word that stands out is the word, "*freedom.*" In Christ, believers are free. God sets His people free from _____ and _____.

Paul's letter wasn't written to a _____ church. It was penned with a _____ of churches in mind. Paul said, "*To the churches in Galatia*" (Gal. 1:2). Where were those churches? On Paul's first missionary journey along with Barnabas, he planted churches in Antioch, Iconium, Derbe, and Lystra (Acts 13-14). Paul almost lost his life in Lystra. Those were the churches of Galatia. On Paul's second missionary journey, he revisited the Galatia churches. It's noted that the Galatians received him with joy and treated him as an angel of God.

Paul revealed a heartfelt spiritual _____ for the Galatians. In Gal 1:6-9, Paul said, "*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*"

What do _____ need today?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Judaizers influenced the Galatians to _____ the law over Christ, and they sought to deny the apostolic _____ of Paul. It was a _____ approach to Christianity. The Judaizers tried to redefine _____ and _____ (Gal. 1:3-4). Every single religion known to man, except the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about good works.

- _____ - Renounce the world and relate to the "spirit of the universe."
- _____ - Obey the eight principles by which man is to walk and find the way of salvation.
- _____ - Keep the Law and a person will be redeemed.
- _____ - Pray five times a day; give alms; fast during the month of Ramadan; and obey the commands of Allah.
- _____ - Man is right with God by displaying good character.
- _____ - Salvation is about being a servant to mankind.

Salvation isn't about what we _____. It's about what Christ has _____. In Eph. 2:8-10, Paul said, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*" _____ always comes first. Good works follows our _____ in Christ.

What principles in Galatians _____ the way we live the Christian life?

- The goal is to please _____, not man (Gal. 1:10).
- Preparation is a valuable _____ in ministry (Gal. 1:15-17).
- Jesus Christ is the _____ to be saved (Gal. 2:20-21).
- The church must always be on guard for _____ teachers and doctrines (Gal. 3:1).
- It's healthy to pause and _____ one's ministry approach (Gal. 4:11).
- Christ saved us to live _____, not in bondage (Gal. 5:1).
- A genuine believer can never _____ his or her salvation (Gal. 5:4).
- The Gospel calls us to _____ upward, inward, and outward (Gal. 5:13-14).
- The "*fruit of the Spirit*" is to be _____, not the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:22-23).
- It's an act of love to bear the _____ of other people (Gal. 6:2).
- Life's behaviors and decisions always have _____ (Gal. 6:7-10).
- Believers must never lose sight of the _____ (Gal. 6:14).

The Book of Galatians shows the _____ of Christian ministry. In today's culture, ministry expectations continue to increase. _____ is being redefined. One of the highest callings in life is to serve as a _____. A pastor's role is about being a _____, not a _____. A cowboy _____; a shepherd _____. God's shepherd needs to know, care, challenge, correct, love, protect, teach, and lead God's sheep.

Galatians: Our Position in Christ

Paul's message in Galatians is direct and forceful. He makes it clear that his involvement in ministry was because of **God's call**, not **man's appointment**. In Gal. 1:1, Paul said, "*Paul, an apostle-not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father.*" What does it mean to be called of God? Another important subject in Paul's letter is **God's will**. Paul said, "*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen*" (Gal. 1:3-5). Paul's message never strayed far from Jesus' death, our sins, the present ungodly age, and God's glory.

Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews have one **Old Testament** verse in common. Habakkuk 2:4 reads, "*The righteous shall live by faith.*" The three New Testament books place an emphasis on different words in the verse. The Book of Romans focuses on "*the righteous,*" telling us how to be right with God. The Letter of Galatians focuses on "*shall live,*" meaning how-to live-in Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews focuses on "*by faith,*" indicating that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). In Galatians, Paul makes it clear what the Christian life is like. And one word that stands out is the word, "*freedom.*" In Christ, believers are free. God sets His people free from **bondage** and **legalism**.

Paul's letter wasn't written to a **single** church. It was penned with a **group** of churches in mind. Paul said, "*To the churches in Galatia*" (Gal. 1:2). Where were those churches? On Paul's first missionary journey, along with Barnabas, he planted churches in Antioch, Iconium, Derbe, and Lystra (Acts 13-14). Paul almost lost his life in Lystra. Those were the churches of Galatia. On Paul's second missionary journey, he revisited the Galatia churches. It's noted that the Galatians received him with joy and treated him as an angel of God.

Paul revealed a heartfelt spiritual **burden** for the Galatians. In Gal 1:6-9, Paul said, "*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*"

What do **churches** need today?

- **Proclamation**
- **Praise**
- **Peace**
- **Patience**
- **Protection**

The Judaizers influenced the Galatians to **pursue** the law over Christ, and they sought to deny the apostolic **authority** of Paul. It was a **legalistic** approach to Christianity. The Judaizers tried to redefine **justification** and **sanctification** (Gal. 1:3-4). Every single religion known to man, except the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about good works.

- **Hinduism** – Renounce the world and relate to the “spirit of the universe.”
- **Buddhism** – Obey the eight principles by which man is to walk and find the way of salvation.
- **Judaism** – Keep the Law and a person will be redeemed.
- **Islam** – Pray five times a day; give alms; fast during the month of Ramadan; and obey the commands of Allah.
- **Unitarianism** – Man is right with God by displaying good character.
- **Modern Humanism** – Salvation is about being a servant to mankind.

Salvation isn't about what we **DO**. It's about what Christ has **DONE**. In Eph. 2:8-10, Paul said, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* **Salvation** always comes first. Good works follows our **redemption** in Christ.

What principles in Galatians **affect** the way we live the Christian life?

- The goal is to please **Christ**, not man (Gal. 1:10).
- Preparation is a valuable **investment** in ministry (Gal. 1:15-17).
- Jesus Christ is the **only way** to be saved (Gal. 2:20-21).
- The church must always be on guard for **false** teachers and doctrines (Gal. 3:1).
- It's healthy to pause and **evaluate** one's ministry approach (Gal. 4:11).
- Christ saved us to live **free**, not in bondage (Gal. 5:1).
- A genuine believer can never **lose** his or her salvation (Gal. 5:4).
- The Gospel calls us to **love** upward, inward, and outward (Gal. 5:13-14).
- The “*fruit of the Spirit*” is to be **evident**, not the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:22-23).
- It's an act of love to bear the **burdens** of other people (Gal. 6:2).
- Life's behaviors and decisions always have **consequences** (Gal. 6:7-10).
- Believers must never lose sight of the **cross** (Gal. 6:14).

The Book of Galatians shows the **complexity** of Christian ministry. In today's culture, ministry expectations continue to increase. **Faithfulness** is being redefined. One of the highest callings in life is to serve as a **pastor**. A pastor's role is about being a **shepherd**, not a **cowboy**. A cowboy **drives**; a shepherd **leads**. God's shepherd needs to know, care, challenge, correct, love, protect, teach, and lead God's sheep.