

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, convicting or life-changing in the readings?

**1. Sunday, Jan. 22; Intro to Galatians + Gal. 1:1-5; Grace and Peace from God to You! Intro:** Who is the author? When was Galatians written? Why did Paul write Galatians? What is the crucial key concept of Galatians? What else did you learn? **Gal. 1:1-5:** Paul says he is an apostle (1a). What are the qualifications of an apostle? Read the Easton's Bible Dictionary definition to find out. (<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/eastons-bible-dictionary/Apostle>.) Who sent Paul to Galatia (1b-2)? Who did not send Paul to Galatia (1a)? Why is this distinction important? To whom is Paul writing (2b)? Why does Paul want to bestow grace and peace from God and Jesus upon his readers? Why might you or I need the "grace and peace of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ" today? Does knowing that the grace and peace of Christ is upon us regardless of our difficulties make a difference in your attitude or mine? Explain. What did Jesus Christ do for you and me and why (4)? Who receives the never-ceasing glory for it (5)? What does the word "amen" mean? How does "amen" seal in the grace and peace that is ours? **Personal Application:** Write about why you or I need to appropriate the gift of grace and peace given by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ today.

**2. Monday, Jan. 23; Gal. 1:6-10; Worldly Philosophies vs. the Simple Gospel of Truth.** What does the word "gospel" mean (<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/eastons-bible-dictionary/Gospel>)? Read the entire passage then re-read verse 9. In plain, simple words, explain what the "gospel YOU accepted" is. Who called you and me to live by the grace of Christ (6)? What does it mean to live in the grace of Christ? Which "different gospel" were the Galatians facing? Which different gospels do you or I contend with daily (must work way to heaven, must strive for wealth, must follow rules, must be politically correct, etc.)? How has your mind or mine abandoned the simple gospel of truth for these other false philosophies? What one trips you or me up personally (7)? Are there certain people in your life who try to sway you from the simple gospel? Do you or I believe that there is only one gospel (8)? Why is that important (8-9)? Why do you or I turn to "different gospels" (10)? What would Paul have been doing if he were trying to please people? What lifestyle changes and hardships did he endure to please Christ instead? In regard to philosophies of the world, what does it mean to be a servant of Christ? **Personal Application:** Write about the worldly philosophies or extra burdens that trip you or me up from the simple gospel of "saved by grace through belief in Jesus Christ" n/or being a people pleaser or God pleaser.

**3. Tuesday, Jan. 24; Gal.1:11-24; Set Apart and Called to Testify.** Why is it important for Paul, his readers at the time, and you or I to know that the gospel is not of human origin (11-12)? Explain how you or I received the gospel of salvation by spiritual revelation of Jesus Christ. How was Paul's life BC (Before Christ) completely different from his life AD (After Decision)(13-14)? Consider the words "set apart" and "called" (15). Do you or I consider ourselves to be set apart and called for the purposes of God? Should we? Why or why not? To whom did Paul turn to be taught and for how long (16-22)? Do you or I seek God as our first and foremost teacher or do we rely on the experiences of others? How are you and I seeking the right balance of this even today? How was Paul's sinful past used for good in Syria and Cilicia (23-24)? **Personal Application:** Write about how you or I are now preaching the faith we once tried to destroy. Thank the Lord for your personal, effective testimony and for being set apart and called to share it.

**4. Wednesday, Jan. 25; Gal. 2:1-5; Freedom in Christ.** Read your Bible notes if you have them for clarification on the time of Paul's visit (1). Why did Paul go to Jerusalem (2)? Are you and I quick to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit? With whom did Paul meet (see verse 9)? How important is it to get godly wisdom from others? Why didn't Titus feel the need to be circumcised (3-4)? Describe your freedom in Christ versus living by obligation/law. How does freedom in Christ make us more effective as we share, work, and witness with others (5)? **Personal Application:** What unproductive thoughts or practices have prevented you or me from moving forward to freedom? Thank the Lord for your freedom in Christ. Ask the Lord to reveal to you those in your sphere of influence who would be refreshed to know that the law has been abolished.

**5. Thursday, Jan. 26; Gal. 2:6-10; Discovering My Assignments.** Did Paul hold in high esteem those regarded as pillars of the church (6, 9)? What was Paul's feeling about those with special status compared to himself? What is society's opinion regarding status and success? Do you or I fall into the trap of downgrading our own importance by comparison?

Why is this unhealthy? What was the godly response of the pillars of the church to Paul's report (7-9)? What exactly was Paul's assignment (7)? As you examine your own life, are you able to determine some specific assignments or messages you are to share from God to those in your sphere of influence? If so, solidify these in your mind. If not, ask the Lord to reveal to you what He has assigned you to do for Him. How are you or I at remembering the poor right now (10)? **Personal Application:** Reflect with God about your extreme importance in the world and His assignments for you in particular. What is God telling you or me regarding the poor?

**6. Friday, Jan. 27; Gal. 2:11-16; Hypocrisy and Confrontation.** Why did Paul oppose Peter to Peter's face (11-12)? Why did Peter stand condemned? Are there people in your life or mine that cause you or me to slip back into the old self (12)? Once Peter fell into hypocrisy, how did others join him in it (13)? Who follows you or me in our hypocrisy or sin? How was Paul bold in confronting Peter (14)? What was his measuring rod for deciding to confront (14a)? Are you or I willing to confront someone who is out of line with the truth of God if asked to do so? Are you or I willing to accept rebuke if God asks someone to confront you or me? What is the simple gospel (15-16)? What was hindering the Jews from believing and trusting the simple gospel? **Personal Application:** Talk with the Lord about: 1. Your own hypocrisy/falling into sin when around the wrong groups of people. OR 2. How you are on either side of the confrontation line. OR 3. What issue prevents you or me from believing the simple gospel.

**7. Saturday, Jan. 28; Gal. 2:17-21; Christ in Me.** What concept was so difficult for the new Jewish believers to grasp (17-18)? Why was it so difficult to accept Gentiles into the fold? Why was it imperative for them to give up living by the law (19)? In your life or mine, what lingering issues of wrong past thought continue to haunt you or me? How may we give up (crucify) polluted thought and action for the pure gospel (20)? What did Christ do for you or me? How do we grant Him entry into the full reign of our hearts? Why did Christ do this (20c)? Why must God's grace be in the forefront of our minds at all times (21)? How is righteousness gained? **Personal Application:** Write out Galatians 2:20. As you write, ingest these words into your heart. Write a prayer of recommitment to this continual way of life.

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Cindy Oury. January 19, 2017.