

HOW TO READ A NEW TESTAMENT LETTER

Galatians is an epistle (letter) that was written by Paul to the church of Galatia.



A VISUAL THEOLOGY GUIDE TO THE BIBLE WORKBOOK
Copyright © 2019 by Tim Challies & Josh Byers. All rights reserved.

Most of the books that make up the New Testament are letters. Some were addressed to churches, while others were written to individuals. Here are some principles to keep in mind when reading these letters.

- 1. Reading a letter can be like listening to one side of a conversation.**
 - We must look for context clues to figure out what was going on.
- 2. Letters were meant to be read all at once.**
 - This allows the reader to see the author's progression of thought and make connections that might otherwise be missed.
- 3. These letters were written to believers learning to live in Christian community.**
 - The authors intended for these to be read outloud to the entire church and often be shared with other churches as well.
- 4. These letters were written to a specific group of believers in history.**
 - Some bits of guidance were written to a specific problem while others articulate principles that are universally true.
- 5. New Testament letters draw heavily on the Old Testament.**
 - The Old Testament was the Bible of the early church. The better we know the Old Testament, the better equipped we are to understand the NT letters.
- 6. The New Testament Letters are part of our family history.**
 - Much has changed in the last two thousand years, but the faith that brought hope to Christians in these early churches is the same faith we hold on to today.
- 7. Jesus is the point of these letters.**
 - These letters were written in the years right after Jesus' life, death and resurrection. They were written so the readers would grow in their understanding of who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do, so His followers can become more like Him.

PRAYERS / REFLECTIONS

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS:

- 1 God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- 2 God, let any knowledge I gain serve to help me love You and others more, and not puff me up.
- 3 God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
- 4 God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
- 5 God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

*** Prayers from The Bible Recap Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble ***

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE:

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, who it was written to, what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful, we recommend the ESV Study Bible)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
 - » Narrow what you've read down to just one or two main thoughts.
 - » What did I learn about God in these passages?
 - » How can I praise God for what this says about him?
 - » What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
 - » What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
 - » What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
 - » What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
 - » What is one next step I can take in light of what I have read today?

WEEKLY CHECKLIST

WEEK ONE - GALATIANS 1

- Day 1 - Galatians 1:1-5, Psalm 16:1-11
- Day 2 - Galatians 1:1-5, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Colossians 1:9-14
- Day 3 - Galatians 1:6-10, II Corinthians 11:1-4, 12-15
- Day 4 - Galatians 1:11-24, Acts 9:1-22
- Day 5 - Galatians 1:11-24, Joel 2:12-14
- Day 6 - Grace Day
- Day 7 - Reflection Day - Colossians 1:13-14, Galatians 1:9-10

WEEK TWO - GALATIANS 2

- Day 8 - Galatians 2:1-10, Isaiah 19:21-25
- Day 9 - Acts 15:1-29, Galatians 2:1-10
- Day 10 - Galatians 2:11-21, Acts 10:9-48
- Day 11 - Galatians 2:11-21
- Day 12 - Galatians 2:16-21
- Day 13 - Grace Day
- Day 14 - Reflection Day - Galatians 2:20

WEEK THREE - GALATIANS 3

- Day 15 - Galatians 3:1-9, Genesis 15:1-6, Matthew 3:1-12
- Day 16 - Galatians 3:1-9, Romans 4:13-25
- Day 17 - Galatians 3:10-18, Genesis 12:1-7, 1 Peter 2:24-25
- Day 18 - Galatians 3:10-18, Isaiah 53:1-12
- Day 19 - Galatians 3:19-29, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 3:21-26
- Day 20 - Grace Day
- Day 21 - Reflection Day - Galatians 3:28, I Peter 2:24, Jeremiah 31:33, Romans 3:23-24

WEEK FOUR - GALATIANS 4

- Day 22 - Galatians 4:1-7, John 14:1-21
- Day 23 - Galatians 4:1-7, Romans 8:1-17
- Day 24 - Galatians 4:8-20, Romans 1:18-25
- Day 25 - Galatians 4:21-31, Genesis 16:1-16, Romans 9:6-8
- Day 26 - Galatians 4:6,31, John 8:31-36
- Day 27 - Grace Day
- Day 28 - Reflection Day - Galatians 4:4-7, John 14:15-18, Romans 8:1-4

WEEK FIVE - GALATIANS 5

- Day 29 - Galatians 5:1-15, Matthew 22:37-40
- Day 30 - Galatians 5:1-15, 1 John 3:19-24
- Day 31 - Galatians 5:16-26, Ezekiel 37:11-14
- Day 32 - Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 2:1-10
- Day 33 - Galatians 5:22-25
- Day 34 - Grace Day
- Day 35 - Reflection Day - Galatians 5:13-18, 25-26, Ephesians 2:4-10

WEEK SIX - GALATIANS 6

- Day 36 - Galatians 6:1-10, John 15:9-17
- Day 37 - Galatians 6:1-10, Luke 15:11-32
- Day 38 - Galatians 6:11-18
- Day 39 - Galatians 6:11-18, Jeremiah 9:23-24, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Day 40 - Galatians 2:16, 20-21, Galatians 3:27-28, Galatians 5:1,13, Galatians 6:2, 9-10
- Day 41 - Grace Day
- Day 42 - Reflection Day - Galatians 2:19-20, Galatians 5:1,6,13,16,22-23, Galatians 6:10