



WEEK 1

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1

WEEK 1

DAY 1 - MONDAY

Galatians 1:1-5, Psalm 16:1-11

WHO AM I?

When Paul introduces himself, it is as though he is writing on one of those "Hello! My Name Is" stickers, one that says: "Hello! My name is Paul, and I belong to Christ. Everything I am is because of everything He did."

Galatians opens with a precious reminder and a challenge to remember: If we are in Christ, then we belong to God, and our identity is now bound up in Christ's death and resurrection. We are sealed by His Spirit, waiting for the day Jesus returns. And we can trust Him, as the psalmist says, because He is our portion and our cup of blessing (Psalm 16:5). He holds my future in his hands, and the boundaries He has drawn around my life are good for me (v.6). From that one identity, everything else should flow, all for His glory.

Written by Melanie Rainer - *She Reads Truth*

**DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR
IDENTITY IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN
CHRIST? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

**IF YOU BELIEVED THAT YOUR
IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST ALONE,
HOW WOULD THAT CHANGE
YOU?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 1

DAY 2 - TUESDAY

Galatians 1:1-5, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Colossians 1:9-14

Jesus gave himself for our sins to rescue us from “this present evil age” for the glory of God (Gal. 1:4-5). The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is at the heart of the gospel. A holy God cannot overlook humanity’s sin and rebellion, but in His great love for us, he sent his Son to suffer and die in our place, taking God’s wrath against sin. This rescue not only secures our eternity, but also gives us the power to be delivered from sin here on earth by the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

DON'T ADD TO THE GOSPEL

Paul wrote this spicy letter to the Galatians because they were toying with the gospel. Because of false teachers in their community, the Galatians were about to tamper with the gospel of grace, diluting it by adding their own works. This is why Paul wrote to the Church, and this is what we still need to hear today on the regular. Only Jesus can deliver us from our sins—past, present, and future—and we cannot deliver ourselves and make our relationship with God right.

Written by J.A. Medders - *He Reads Truth*

**WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU
IN I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11
TODAY?**

**WHAT STOOD OUT IN
COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 TODAY?**

WEEK 1

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

Galatians 1:6-10, II Corinthians 11:1-4, II Corinthians 11:12-15

NO OTHER GOSPEL

When the line between truth and embellishment blurs, it is easy to believe first and question later. This is exactly Paul's point in today's part of the letter to Galatians. "I am amazed," he writes, "that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another gospel" (Gal. 1:6-7). Paul pulls no punches, telling them, "If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!" (v.9). Furthermore, in 2 Corinthians, Paul admonishes, "For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus... you put up with it splendidly!" (2 Cor. 11:4). The warning is two-fold: Stay true to the one true gospel and to Christ, and do not follow or teach a false gospel. I actively fight against the temptation of false gospels every day by engaging in Scripture, the north star that always points us exclusively to Christ. Filtering out falsehoods and embellishments is the work of the Holy Spirit in my heart through the means of grace that is the Word of God.

Written by Melanie Rainer - *She Reads Truth*

How often are you tempted to subscribe to a "gospel" that says you only matter to God if you prayed today? Or read your Bible? Do you follow the crushing logic of a "gospel" that ties your joy to your works, or do you tie it to Jesus's cross and resurrection? If we aren't careful, we can take good things, and we can make them into cursed things if we attach them to the gospel.

Written by J.A. Medders - *He Reads Truth*

**CAN YOU SEE HOW
UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE
GOSPEL OF SALVATION BY
GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN
JESUS ALONE CAN HELP YOU
IDENTIFY FALSE GOSPELS?**

**WHAT ARE SOME GOOD THINGS
THAT YOU TEND TO ATTACH TO
THE GOSPEL?**

WEEK 1

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

Galatians 1:11-24, Acts 9:1-22

God revealed his Son Jesus to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Saul was an ultra-orthodox Jew, who had been persecuting Christians for not following the law. He was doing what he thought was moral and right by persecuting these Christians, but this revelation from God... this encounter with Jesus... changed Saul (who we now know as Paul) forever. Paul began preaching the very faith & message that he had once tried to destroy. It's a reminder to us that no one is beyond the grace of God. The heart that is against Christ can be still changed. Paul's story became, "I once was blind, but now I see."

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO PAUL

Here, as in Acts, Paul is not sharing his testimony for general inspiration, or to point us to himself. He's using it to refute the claims of people who want to undermine his message, and he wants it all to point to the God of amazing grace. As Paul tells us how he became a follower of Jesus—or, perhaps more accurately, how Jesus made him His follower—he's defending himself from three attacks "some people" were making on him and his gospel message. First, Paul refutes the idea that he came to his gospel message through his own reflection, reasoning and thinking. Second, Paul undermines the claim that his gospel message was derived from other leaders. Third, Paul shows that his God-given gospel "checked out" with the message the other apostles had received from God.

Later we will see that they were encouraging the Gentile Christians to become full converts to Judaism, and to keep all the Mosaic laws of diet and dress, including circumcision (2:12; 3:5; 6:12). But Paul is saying: I've already been there and done that! I know all about this subject! You cannot make yourself acceptable to God by the most zealous and detailed following of moral, ethical, or cultural codes. Grace is the free, unmerited favor of God, working powerfully on the mind and heart to change lives. There is no clearer example than Paul that salvation is by grace alone, not through our moral and religious performance.

Written by Tim Keller - *Galatians For You*

WHAT IS YOUR "I ONCE WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE" MOMENT? BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE THIS WEEK.

WEEK 1

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

Galatians 1:11-24, Joel 2:12-14

PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION

As we've read through Galatians 1 this week, Paul has been building a case for the rest of his letter using his own story of transformation. Paul uses his story to set the stage for the rest of the letter. Paul had been a pharisee, self-described as "extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors" (Gal 1:14). He knew the law. He lived by it and for it. Then Paul explains his own total transformation as "when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me" (vv.15-16). Paul became an apostle of Jesus; he knew his Savior, and lived by Him and for Him. Paul was totally transformed. The same transformation is offered to us by God's grace. I love how God calls them to Himself in Joel 2:12-13..."return to the LORD your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and he relents from sending disaster." Because I can trust God and His character, I can trust His process of transformation—His grace, compassion, patience, and steadfast love. Every day I pray for a deeper and greater transformation of my heart. Prayer, Scripture, Spirit—these are my lifelines to a new heart and a closer communion with God. Without them, I'm weak and tired. With them, I am transformed.

Written by Melanie Rainer - *She Reads Truth*

Paul, a former Pharisee before Jesus flipped his world upside down in the very best way, Paul knows the power of Christ and is not ashamed of the gospel. How has Jesus flipped your world around? Don't ever be ashamed of your story. Jesus isn't. He wrote it. He's using it. Praise God for it! Your origin story doesn't even begin with you. Your story begins with the God of all grace, and a book filled with the names of those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Written by J.A. Medders - *He Reads Truth*

**HAVE YOU EVER FELT ASHAMED
BY PARTS OF YOUR STORY?**

**SPEND SOME TIME IN
PRAYER SURRENDERING
THOSE FEELINGS OF SHAME
TO GOD AND PRAISING HIM
FOR ALL THE PARTS OF YOUR
TRANSFORMATION STORY.**

WEEK 1

DAY 6 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray and catch up on any of this week's reading that you missed.

In this week's reading:

1. *What themes did you see emerge?*
2. *What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?*
3. *What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?*

WEEK 1

DAY 7 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Reflect on these passages:

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14

"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. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Galatians 1:9-10

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR WEEK 1

How could you live your life in a way this coming week that helps people see less of you and more of God working in you?

How can you commit this coming week to spending more time with God?

Who can you share your transformation story with this coming week?