



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 2:1-21

Inductive Discovery Lesson 3

Paul's concern for his Galatian friends went deep. After all, these were the people who came to faith when Paul and Barnabas made that first missionary journey. For two years Paul had poured blood, sweat, and tears into sharing the gospel with every person who would listen. Wherever they went, crowds gathered.

Paul remembered how the crowds received them eagerly, only to turn on them days later. That pattern of reception-and-rejection played out in nearly every town they visited. The opposition had been fierce and relentless, and these Christians were the fruit of that labor. New believers soaked up truth like sponges. For believing Jews, this gospel of grace was fresh wind blowing through their ancient faith. Gentiles were delighted to learn that they, too, were included in God's plan. In every community, churches sprang up and disciples were made. Paul could see their faces and remember the time he spent in their homes. He recalled how kind they were to take care of him when he got so sick. He still bore scars from the stoning he took in Lystra, but he didn't regret his visit to that town. Among the friends he made on his way back through was a promising young man named Timothy.

Paul could truly say his time in Galatia had been grueling, but oh so gratifying! He loved these people like family, and it comes through in the tone of his letter to them. When family is in trouble, you don't skirt the issues; you get right to the heart of the matter. Since Paul's authority as an apostle was being questioned, he tackled that issue head on. Keep in mind, Paul wasn't being thin-skinned here. He accepted the fact that personal insults and public humiliation came with the calling. It wasn't pleasant, but Paul remembered the Lord's words through Ananias, "I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

No, Paul wasn't defending his credentials because he cared so much about his reputation. But if he allowed men to discredit him, it would undermine the message that salvation comes *by grace alone*. Paul could not, *would not*, stand silently by and let that happen.

Tracing Paul's Steps: *Paul Recalls How His Ministry Began*

- After seeing Jesus, Paul was told to wait in Damascus for further instructions. The Lord sent Ananias to tell Paul he was chosen to be a witness to all men. (Acts 22:9-16)
- From Damascus, Paul went to Arabia (unknown period of time). Returned to Damascus. (Gal. 1:17)
- Three years after his conversion, Paul visits Jerusalem but believers are suspicious of him. Barnabas brings Paul to meet Peter and James who hear his testimony and accept him into fellowship. (Acts 9:26-27; Galatians 1:18-19)
- Paul's preaching in Jerusalem is met with fierce resistance. Jesus tells Paul to leave quickly; He is being sent to the Gentiles. Christian brothers help Paul to safely leave. (Acts 22:17-21; Acts 9:30)
- Paul preaches in Syria and Cilicia for a time; scholars estimate 9-11 years. (Galatians 1:21) He partners with Barnabas in Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26) At some point during this period, Paul experiences a heavenly vision. (2 Cor. 12:1-10)
- The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem with famine relief. (Acts 11:27-30)
- Paul's first missionary trip (with Barnabas); he preaches in cities throughout South Galatia. (Acts 13-14)
- Fourteen years after his conversion, Paul visits Jerusalem again. Peter, James and John ("men of reputation") acknowledge Paul's calling as an apostle to the Gentiles. (Galatians 2:7-9)



Working Text for Galatians 2:1-21

New King James Version (NKJ)

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. 2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. 3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), 5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. 6 But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. 7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter 8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), 9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. 17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”



Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

5

Galatians 2:11-14

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Galatians 2:15-21

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 2:1-21

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“truth of the gospel” (vs.5) _____

“the gospel...worked effectively in me” (vs.8) _____

“crucified with Christ” (vs.20) _____

“Christ lives in me” (vs.20) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 2:1-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 2:11-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 2:15-21

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

I have been crucified with Christ;
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 for me.
Galatians 2:20 NKJV

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Sometimes we forget to keep living by the grace that saved us when we first came to Christ.Jesus. Christ has done *everything* necessary for our salvation. We cannot earn the grace of God; it only comes free.¹

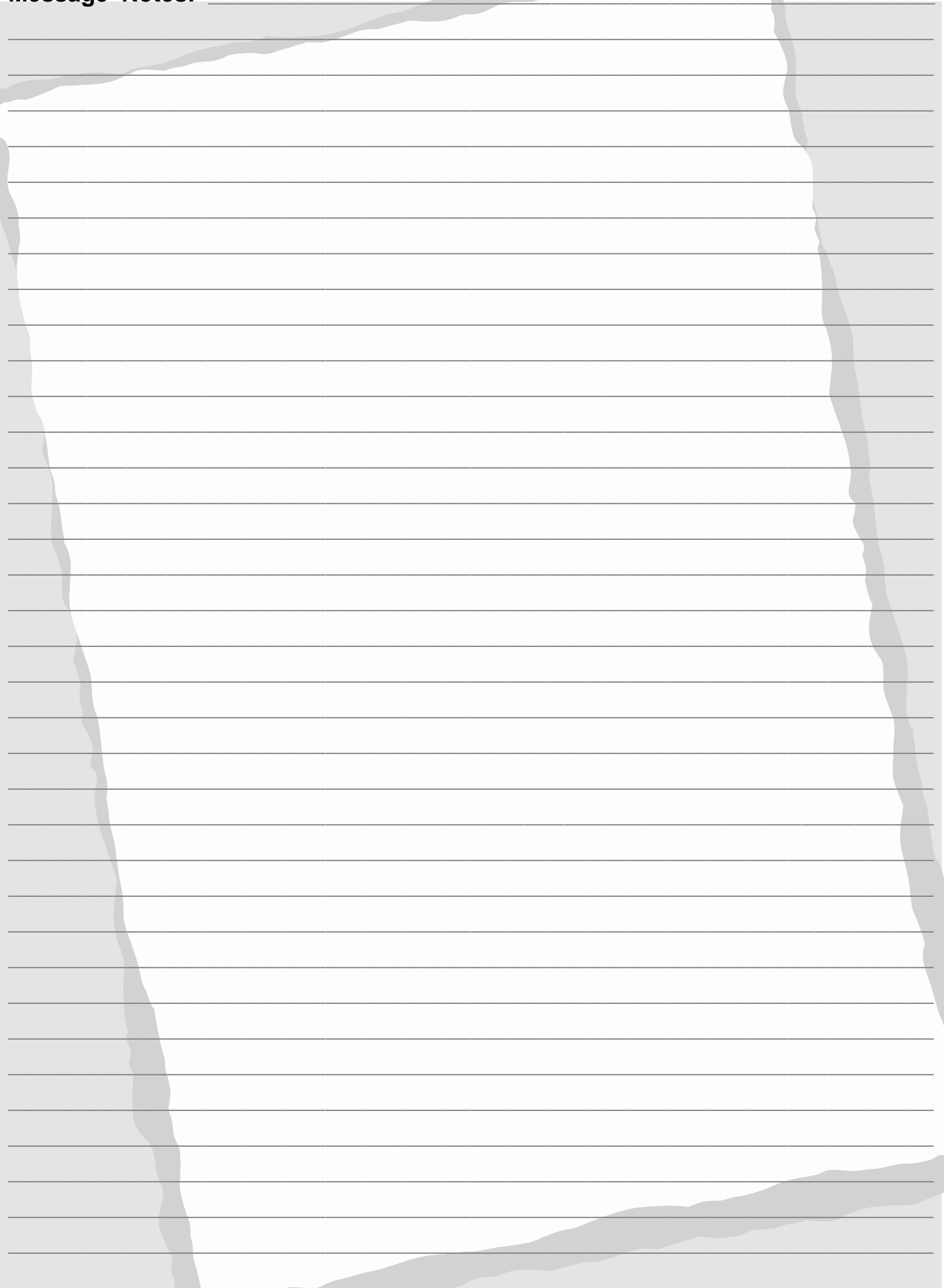


God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ *Ryken's Bible Handbook*, Tyndale House Publishers, pg. 519

Message Notes:





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