

Apostle Paul Epistles Doctrine Book Of Galatians



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Paul's explanations in his epistles are crucial for us today because they lay the **doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith** and provide **practical instructions for daily living**. Here's why his teachings remain relevant:

1. They Explain the Gospel of Grace

Paul's epistles emphasize **justification by faith** (Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16) and the **sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice** (Colossians 2:13-14). This message is essential in a world where many still seek salvation through works or religious rituals.

2. They Teach How to Live as Christians

Paul provides guidance on:

- **Sanctification** – Living a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
- **Love and Unity** – Bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- **Spiritual Warfare** – Standing against the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- **Christian Conduct** – Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)

3. They Defend Against False Doctrines

Paul warns about false teachers (Galatians 1:6-9, 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and emphasizes the need to stand firm in sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). This remains critical today as many distort the gospel.

4. They Emphasize the Church's Role

Paul explains the **body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), the **role of pastors and elders** (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and the **importance of fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25). His teachings help believers understand how to function within the church.

5. They Give Us Hope for Christ's Return

Paul's writings on the **Second Coming of Christ** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) provide hope in troubled times, reminding believers of their future resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

Conclusion

Paul's explanations are essential today because they teach us **who we are in Christ, how to live by faith, how to resist falsehood, and how to prepare for Christ's return**. His epistles continue to **equip, encourage, and establish believers** in the truth of God's Word.

Elder W H Moody

****Doctrines in Galatians 1****

Galatians 1 lays the foundation for Paul's letter by emphasizing the divine origin of his apostleship and the gospel he preaches. Here are the key doctrines found in the chapter:

1. ****The Divine Authority of Paul's Gospel (Galatians 1:1-5)****

Paul immediately establishes that he is an apostle not by human appointment but by Jesus Christ and God the Father (v.1). This defends his authority against false teachers who questioned his legitimacy. He also emphasizes that salvation comes through Jesus, "who gave himself for our sins" (v.4), reinforcing the doctrine of ****grace and redemption****.

2. ****The Danger of a Perverted Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)****

Paul warns that some are turning away to a "different gospel," which is not truly another gospel but a distortion of the true message (v.6-7). He pronounces a curse (anathema) on anyone, even an angel, who preaches a gospel contrary to what he originally preached (v.8-9). This underscores the doctrine of ****the exclusivity of the true gospel****—salvation by grace through faith alone in Christ alone.

3. ****Paul's Gospel Came from Christ, Not Men (Galatians 1:10-12)****

Paul declares that his gospel was received "through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (v.12), not from human sources. This highlights the doctrine of ****divine revelation****—the message of salvation is not man-made but given by God.

4. ****Paul's Testimony as Proof of God's Grace (Galatians 1:13-24)****

Paul shares how he once persecuted the church but was transformed by God's grace and called to preach to the Gentiles (v.15-16). His conversion and ministry prove that salvation is by ****God's sovereign grace and calling****, not by works or the law.

****Main Doctrinal Takeaways****

- ****Apostolic Authority**** – Paul's message is from God, not man.
- ****Grace over Legalism**** – Salvation is through Christ alone, not the works of the Law.
- ****No Other Gospel**** – Any deviation from the true gospel is false and condemned.
- ****Divine Revelation**** – The gospel is not man-made but revealed by Christ.
- ****Transforming Power of Grace**** – Paul's conversion shows that God calls and saves by grace.

Galatians 1 sets the stage for the rest of the letter, where Paul will further defend justification by faith and warn against returning to the Law.

****Doctrines in Galatians 2****

Galatians 2 continues Paul's defense of the true gospel and highlights the doctrine of ****justification by faith alone****, apart from the works of the Law.

****1. The Unity of the True Gospel (Galatians 2:1-10)****

Paul recounts how he went to Jerusalem to confirm that the gospel he preached to the Gentiles was in agreement with what the apostles in Jerusalem taught (v.1-2). Titus, a Greek, was not required to be circumcised (v.3), showing that ****salvation is by faith, not by Jewish law****.

- ****Doctrine of Christian Unity**** – The gospel is the same for Jews and Gentiles (v.7-9).
- ****Doctrine of Christian Freedom**** – Believers are free from the bondage of the Law (v.4-5).

****2. Paul Confronts Peter (Galatians 2:11-14)****

Paul rebukes Peter for hypocrisy when Peter, fearing Jewish Christians, stopped eating with Gentiles (v.12-13).

- ****Doctrine of Hypocrisy and Legalism**** – Adding legalistic requirements to the gospel is wrong (v.14).
- ****Doctrine of Justification**** – A person is justified by faith, not by the Law (v.16).

****3. Justification by Faith, Not by Works (Galatians 2:15-21)****

Paul declares the central doctrine of ****justification by faith****:

- "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ" (v.16).
- If righteousness came through the law, "then Christ died for nothing" (v.21).

****Key Doctrines in Galatians 2:****

1. ****Justification by Faith Alone**** – We are saved by faith, not by keeping the Law (v.16).
2. ****Freedom in Christ**** – The gospel frees believers from legalism (v.4-5).
3. ****No Distinction Between Jews and Gentiles**** – All are saved the same way (v.7-9).
4. ****Christ Lives in the Believer**** – "I have been crucified with Christ... Christ lives in me" (v.20).
5. ****Grace Over Law**** – Righteousness is by grace, not law-keeping (v.21).

This chapter strongly refutes legalism and emphasizes the believer's new life in Christ.

**Doctrines in Galatians 3**

Galatians 3 is a powerful defense of **justification by faith** and a refutation of salvation by the works of the Law. Paul explains that faith, not the Law, is the basis of righteousness before God.

**1. Justification by Faith, Not the Law (Galatians 3:1-9)**

Paul rebukes the Galatians for being deceived into thinking they must follow the Law to be righteous.

- They received the Spirit by faith, not by works (v.2-3).
- Abraham was justified by faith, and all who believe are his spiritual descendants (v.6-9).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Faith, Not Works, Saves** – Justification comes through faith in Christ, not the Law (v.2-3).
- **Blessing of Abraham by Faith** – All who believe are counted as Abraham's children (v.7-9).

**2. The Law Brings a Curse (Galatians 3:10-14)**

Paul explains that the Law brings a curse because no one can keep it perfectly.

- "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things written in the law" (v.10).
- Christ redeemed us from this curse by becoming a curse for us (v.13).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **The Law Condemns** – The Law cannot save; it only shows our sin (v.10).
- **Christ's Redemption** – Jesus took the curse of the Law upon Himself so that we could be justified by faith (v.13-14).

**3. The Law vs. the Promise (Galatians 3:15-22)**

Paul clarifies that God's promise to Abraham (justification by faith) came **before** the Law and was not annulled by it.

- The Law was given 430 years after the promise and does not replace it (v.17).
- The Law was added because of sin, but it was never meant to bring righteousness (v.19).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****God's Promise is Superior to the Law**** – The promise of salvation through faith came first (v.17-18).
- ****The Law Reveals Sin**** – The Law was a temporary measure to point people to Christ (v.19-22).

**4. The Law as a Tutor Leading to Christ (Galatians 3:23-29)**

Paul explains that the Law was like a tutor or guardian, keeping people in check until Christ came.

- "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (v.24).
- Now that Christ has come, believers are no longer under the tutor (v.25).
- In Christ, all believers—Jew or Gentile—are one and heirs of God's promise (v.26-29).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****The Law's Temporary Role**** – It pointed to Christ but is no longer necessary for justification (v.24-25).
- ****Unity in Christ**** – There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female— all are one in Christ (v.28).
- ****Believers are Heirs of the Promise**** – Those in Christ are Abraham's true seed (v.29).

**Summary of Doctrines in Galatians 3:**

1. ****Justification is by Faith Alone**** – Not by the works of the Law (v.6-9, 11).
2. ****The Law Condemns, Christ Redeems**** – The Law brings a curse; Christ took that curse for us (v.10-13).
3. ****Salvation is Based on God's Promise**** – The promise to Abraham was given before the Law and still stands (v.17-18).
4. ****The Law was Temporary**** – It served to point people to Christ, but now believers live by faith (v.23-25).
5. ****All Believers are One in Christ**** – There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile; all are Abraham's seed through faith (v.28-29).

Galatians 3 solidifies that righteousness comes ****only**** through faith in Christ, not through obedience to the Law.

**Doctrines in Galatians 4**

Galatians 4 continues Paul's argument that believers in Christ are not under the Law but are **children of God through faith**. He contrasts slavery under the Law with the freedom believers have in Christ and uses the story of Sarah and Hagar to illustrate the difference between the old and new covenants.

**1. Believers Are Adopted as Sons and Heirs (Galatians 4:1-7)**

Paul explains that before Christ, people were like children under a guardian (the Law), but now believers are mature **sons and heirs of God**.

- Before faith in Christ, people were "enslaved" to the "elementary principles of the world" (v.3).
- "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son... to redeem those under the Law" (v.4-5).
- Because believers are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into their hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" (v.6).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Adoption as Sons** – Believers are not slaves but sons and heirs of God through Christ (v.5-7).
- **Freedom from the Law** – Christ has redeemed believers from the bondage of the Law (v.4-5).
- **The Indwelling of the Spirit** – The Holy Spirit confirms our sonship (v.6).

**2. Paul's Concern for the Galatians (Galatians 4:8-20)**

Paul expresses concern that the Galatians are turning back to legalism, observing Jewish holy days as if they were required for salvation.

- Before knowing God, they were slaves to false gods (v.8).
- Now that they know God, why return to weak and useless things (v.9)?
- Paul reminds them of their former love for him and pleads for them to remain in the truth (v.12-20).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Legalism is Spiritual Slavery** – Going back to the Law is like returning to bondage (v.9).
- **Faith, Not Rituals, is What Matters** – Observing religious days does not make one righteous (v.10-11).

****3. The Allegory of Hagar and Sarah (Galatians 4:21-31)****

Paul uses ****Hagar and Sarah**** to illustrate the difference between the old and new covenants.

- Hagar (the bondswoman) represents ****Mount Sinai and the Law****, leading to slavery (v.24-25).
- Sarah (the free woman) represents ****the promise of grace through faith****, leading to freedom (v.26-28).
- "Cast out the bondswoman and her son" (v.30) means that ****the old covenant is not the way to salvation****.
- "We are not children of the slave but of the free woman" (v.31).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Two Covenants: Law vs. Grace**** – The Law (Hagar) enslaves, but grace (Sarah) gives freedom (v.24-28).
- ****Believers are Children of the Promise**** – Christians inherit salvation by faith, like Isaac (v.28-31).
- ****The Old Covenant is Set Aside**** – The Law is not the path to righteousness (v.30).

****Summary of Doctrines in Galatians 4:****

1. ****Adoption as God's Children**** – Believers are sons, not slaves, with full rights as heirs (v.4-7).
2. ****The Law is Bondage**** – Returning to the Law after receiving grace is spiritual slavery (v.9-10).
3. ****Justification by Faith, Not Rituals**** – Religious observances do not make a person right with God (v.10-11).
4. ****The Two Covenants: Law vs. Grace**** – The old covenant enslaves, but the new covenant gives freedom (v.21-31).
5. ****Believers are Free in Christ**** – Just as Sarah's child was free, so believers are free in Christ (v.31).

****Main Message:****

Paul urges the Galatians to reject legalism and embrace their identity as free children of God, living by faith and not under the Law.

****Doctrines in Galatians 5****

Galatians 5 focuses on ****Christian freedom, walking in the Spirit, and rejecting the works of the flesh****. Paul warns against returning to the Law and emphasizes that believers are called to live by faith and love.

****1. Freedom in Christ, Not the Law (Galatians 5:1-6)****

Paul reminds the Galatians that Christ has set them free from the yoke of the Law.

- "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free" (v.1).
- If they accept circumcision (as a requirement for salvation), they are obligated to keep the entire Law (v.3).
- "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (v.9) – even a small amount of legalism corrupts grace.

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Freedom in Christ**** – Believers are not bound by the Law for salvation (v.1).
- ****Justification by Faith Alone**** – Circumcision (or any work) does not contribute to salvation (v.2-4).
- ****Faith Working Through Love**** – True faith expresses itself in love, not in legalistic rituals (v.6).

****2. The Danger of Legalism and False Teachers (Galatians 5:7-12)****

Paul warns that false teachers are leading the Galatians astray.

- "Who hindered you from obeying the truth?" (v.7) – False teachers are corrupting the gospel.
- Those who teach circumcision as necessary for salvation are condemned (v.10).
- Paul sarcastically says he wishes the legalists would "cut themselves off" (v.12), showing his frustration with their false teaching.

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Legalism Corrupts the Gospel**** – Adding works to salvation distorts the truth (v.7-9).
- ****False Teachers Will Be Judged**** – Those who pervert the gospel will face God's condemnation (v.10).

**3. Walking in the spirit vs. Walking in the Flesh (Galatians 5:13-26)**

Paul contrasts **living by the Spirit** with **living by the flesh**.

- "Do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh" (v.13) Freedom not a license to sin.
- "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (v.16).
- The **works of the flesh** include adultery, hatred, idolatry, and drunkenness (v.19-21).
- The **fruit of the Spirit** includes love, joy, peace, and self-control (v.22-23).
- "Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (v.24).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Christian Liberty Requires Responsibility** – Freedom in Christ is not an excuse for sin (v.13).
- **The Battle Between Flesh and Spirit** – The flesh and Spirit are in conflict (v.16-17).
- **The Works of the Flesh Lead to Destruction** – Those who live in sin will not inherit God's kingdom (v.19-21).
- **The Fruit of the Spirit Identifies True Believers** – The Spirit produces godly character in Christians (v.22-23).
- **Crucifying the Flesh** – True believers put sinful desires to death and follow the Spirit (v.24-25).

**Summary of Doctrines in Galatians 5:**

1. **Freedom in Christ** – Believers are free from the Law and should stand firm in that freedom (v.1).
2. **Justification by Faith Alone** – Salvation does not come through works like circumcision (v.2-6).
3. **False Teachers Will Be Judged** – Legalism distorts the gospel and leads people astray (v.7-12).
4. **Christian Liberty is Not a License to Sin** – Freedom must be used to serve others in love (v.13-15).
5. **Walking in the Spirit** – Believers must live by the Spirit, not the flesh (v.16-18).
6. **The Works of the Flesh Lead to Death** – Sinful living is evidence of a heart not submitted to God (v.19-21).
7. **The Fruit of the Spirit Leads to Life** – God's Spirit produces righteousness in believers (v.22-23).
8. **Crucifying the Flesh** – Christians must put away sinful desires and follow the Spirit (v.24-25).

**Main Message:**

Paul urges the Galatians to **reject legalism**, **walk in the Spirit**, and **demonstrate true Christian character** through the fruit of the Spirit.

****Doctrines in Galatians 6****

Galatians 6 concludes Paul's letter by emphasizing ****bearing one another's burdens, sowing and reaping, and boasting only in the cross of Christ****. He encourages believers to live in humility, do good to others, and remain faithful to Christ rather than the world.

****1. Bearing One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:1-5)****

Paul calls believers to restore others gently and help bear their burdens.

- "If anyone is overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" (v.1).
- "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (v.2).
- "Each one shall bear his own load" (v.5) – everyone is responsible for their actions.

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Restoring Others in Love**** – Believers should help others overcome sin with gentleness (v.1).
- ****Bearing Burdens Fulfills Christ's Law**** – Supporting others in their struggles is a mark of true faith (v.2).
- ****Personal Accountability**** – Each person must take responsibility for their own life before God (v.5).

****2. Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:6-10)****

Paul explains that whatever a person sows, they will also reap—whether for the flesh or the Spirit.

- "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (v.7).
- "He who sows to the flesh will reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life" (v.8).
- "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up" (v.9).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****The Principle of Sowing and Reaping**** – Our actions have consequences, both in this life and eternity (v.7-8).
- ****Living for the Spirit Brings Eternal Rewards**** – Those who invest in godly living will be rewarded (v.8).
- ****Perseverance in Doing Good**** – Believers must remain faithful, knowing God will reward them (v.9).

**3. Boasting Only in the Cross (Galatians 6:11-18)**

Paul warns against false teachers who boast in outward religious works (circumcision) but lack true devotion to Christ.

- "God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v.14).
- "Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but a new creation" (v.15).
- Paul bears the "marks of Jesus" (v.17), showing his suffering for the gospel.

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****True Glory is in the Cross**** – Salvation is not about outward religious acts but about Christ's work (v.14).
- ****New Creation in Christ**** – Being born again is what matters, not legalistic rituals (v.15).
- ****Suffering for Christ is a Mark of True Faith**** – Paul's scars symbolize his devotion to Christ (v.17).

**Summary of Doctrines in Galatians 6:**

1. ****Restoring Others in Gentleness**** – Believers should help one another grow spiritually (v.1).
2. ****Bearing Each Other's Burdens**** – Supporting others fulfills the law of Christ (v.2).
3. ****Personal Accountability**** – Every believer is responsible for their own actions (v.5).
4. ****Sowing and Reaping**** – Our actions have spiritual consequences (v.7-8).
5. ****Persevering in Good Works**** – Faithfulness will be rewarded in due time (v.9).
6. ****Boasting Only in Christ**** – Religious rituals do not save; only faith in Christ does (v.14-15).
7. ****Suffering for Christ is a Mark of Faith**** – Paul's hardships prove his commitment to the gospel (v.17).

**Main Message:**

Paul urges believers to live in ****love, humility, and perseverance****, rejecting legalism and boasting only in the cross of Christ.