

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Winter 2016

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Description

The letter to the Galatians can be a bit hard to read because of the angry tone the Apostle Paul uses. However, Galatians remains an important letter for the church in the 21st century to read and understand. It is because the Apostle is defending his gospel that we clearly get a look at just what he believes and why it's important. In an age where there are many other gospels competing for our allegiance, Galatians stands as a critical letter for the church.

Galatians will run over 11 weeks, from January 6th to March 30th. Join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm as we trace Paul's thought and think about how it informs us today. Participants should also purchase N.T. Wright's book *What Saint Paul Really Said*. For more information please contact Pastor David: david@northview.sk.ca.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course participants should:

- be better acquainted with the historical figure of the Apostle Paul
- be more familiar the nature of Paul's gospel
- grasp the nature of the freedom Christians live in, in Christ
- the role of the Spirit in the Christian life

Weekly Schedule

| WEEK NUMBER | DATE | TEXT | WRIGHT TEXT |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | January 6, 2016 | Galatians 1:1-10 | Chapter 1 |
| Week 2 | January 13, 2016 | Galatians 1:11-24 | Chapter 2 |
| Week 3 | January 20, 2016 | Galatians 2:1-10 | Chapter 3.1 (pg. 39-51) |
| Week 4 | January 27, 2016 | Galatians 2:11-21 | Chapter 3.2 (pg. 51-62) |
| Week 5 | February 3, 2016 | Galatians 3:1-14 | Chapter 4 |
| Week 6 | February 10, 2016 | NO CLASS: ASH WEDNESDAY | |
| Week 7 | February 17, 2016 | Galatians 3:15-20 | Chapter 5 |
| Week 8 | February 24, 2016 | Galatians 3:21-4:20 | Chapter 6 |
| Week 9 | March 2, 2016 | NO CLASS: ALL THAT JAZZ | |
| Week 10 | March 9, 2016 | Galatians 4:21-5:1 | Chapter 7 |
| Week 11 | March 16, 2016 | Galatians 5:2-15 | Chapter 8 |
| Week 12 | March 23, 2016 | Galatians 5:16-26 | Chapter 9 |
| Week 13 | March 30, 2016 | Galatians 6:1-18 | Chapter 10 |

Participants

This class is operated on a drop in, drop out basis. Participants are not required to come to every class, simply as they desire or are able to. It would be helpful if participants brought a bible or a copy of the letter in order to follow along with the discussion. Participants may also benefit from bringing a means to take notes as there will be a lot of information. Finally, for those who want to go deeper and get more out of this course, it is recommended that they:

- Read through the letter in one sitting at least once per week. Reading out loud versus silently would also be a benefit in this area. This will give an increased familiarity with the letter and will help to capture the whole.
- Label the paragraphs. Following the schedule above, participants can label each paragraph as they appear in their bible. Labels should be concise (not a description or a summary of the paragraph) and specific (should describe only this paragraph and no other, i.e. not general). This can be done on your own or it can be handed to the facilitator to receive feedback.
- Read the letter in several versions. This will benefit because translating is always subjective. Different translations will bring out different words that translates the original greek. By identifying the difference, participants will have a fuller appreciation for the range of meanings of the original language.
- Read a book or commentary on the letter.

This course is not a bible study, rather it is presented in course format as a Text and Interpretation: Galatians, such as you might take at the Bible College or university level (though no papers, exams or grades!). As such, it is lecture based though we welcome questions through out the entire class. We have scheduled our time so that we spend an hour of working through the material and then have thirty minutes for questions and answers or general discussion.

At the end of the course participants will be asked to provide feedback on the course so we might adjust the format for future classes. If participants desire to give feedback as the course progresses or if they have question that come up outside of class time they are encouraged to email David at david@northview.sk.ca.