

WORKMAN WORKSHOPS

Rora House Week-End Bible School, Easter 1994

Galatians Worksheet No 1

It shall Greatly
Helpe Ye to
understand
Scripture if

Thou Mark...

Not only What is
Spoken or Wrytten, but
of Whom, and to Whom;
with What Words; at
What Time; Where; to
What Intent; with What
Circumstances;
considering What Goeth
Before and What
Followeth.

So wrote John Wycliffe
some six centuries ago,
and we can do no better
than to follow his
counsel.

The letter to the
churches of Galatia did
not fall out of heaven,
but it arose out of the
circumstances of the
day.

Imagine what it would
be like if we didn't have
the Acts of the Apostles.
The letter to the
Galatians was the first of

Paul's letters so imagine
trying to make sense of
Galatians without the
Acts.

The gospel accounts are
all set in Judza, Samaria
and Galilee and are
intensely Jewish. In the
gospel Jesus chooses
twelve men as apostles,
but what do we find in
Galatians?

Who is Paul? How can
he call himself an
apostle? What is a
church? Why are there
churches in the Roman
province of Galatia? It
would be almost
impossible to make
sense of Galatians
without the Acts.

It is impossible
to make sense
of Galatians
without

Genesis and the story of
Abraham, or without
Exodus-Deuteronomy or
parts of Isaiah or
Habakkuk or The Acts.

Added to all this is the
fact that the best
commentary ever
written on the letter to
the Galatians is the letter
to the Romans!

So we have some
reading to do, and some
prayerful thinking.

Galatians really is a
foundational book. If we
can get a grip here it will
stand us in good stead
for all future bible study.

These first
readings are to
introduce us
to Abraham
and the Promise, and
Moses and the Law.
These are vital concepts,
but don't be too
concerned if you can't
grasp them at the first
attempt.

Let the scriptures wash
over your thinking. Read
slowly and prayerfully.
Remember the Author is
available to discuss any
difficult passages!

Countdown to Easter '94

Only three months to go! It might seem a little premature but if we want to make the best use of the short time we shall spend together we need to give time to individual preparation.

No-one ever finds time, we have to make time. Please schedule some priority time to spend reading and thinking about the letter to the Galatians. Time invested now will be amply repaid in Easter.

Campbell Morgan used to read a bible book a hundred times before he began to expound it.

*Be diligent to present
yourself approved to God
as a workman
who does not need to
be ashamed,
handling accurately the
word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15
N.A.S.V.*

reading schedule

First & Second Weeks

Abraham & The Promise

- The Promise: Gen 11:27 -13:18
- The Choice: Gen 14:1 -15:21
- The False Start: Gen 16:1-17
- The Covenant: Gen 17:1 -20:18
- The Son: Gen 21:1-34
- The Sacrifice: Gen 22:1-24
- The Passing of the Old: Gen 23:1-20
- The Son's Bride: Gen 24:1-67
- The Conclusion: Gen 25:1-10

Third & Fourth Weeks

Moses & The Law

- Redemption: Ex 1:1 -15:27
- The Journey: Ex 16:1 -18:18
- The Sinai Covenant: Ex 19:1 -24:18
- Sacrifice & Offerings: Le 1:1 -7:38
- Priesthood: Le 8:1 -10:20
- The Contagion of Sin: Le 11:1 -15:33
- Atonement: Le 16:1-3
- Sinners & Saints: Nu 5:1 -6:27
- Blessings & Curses: De 29:1 -33:29

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keep taking the tablets

...in other words keep reading the letter to the Galatians. Try to read Galatians at least once a week. It only takes 15 minutes.

Try another version occasionally and note any differences.

STOP PRESS

If you know of others who are still undecided as to whether or not to come invite them to try to make a start on the reading schedule.

Feel free to photo-copy any of these Worksheets for them.

Dear Fellow-Guinea-Pigs,

There has been quite a bit of interest in this idea of a Week-End Bible School with three separate invitations to run similar courses in other parts of the country.

I have made no firm plans for future courses because I really do want to see how this "pilot course" works. So, fellow-pioneers, I shall be grateful for any comments or suggestions as the course develops. It will be a particular help to me if all who enrol are diligent in the pre-coursework.

see you soon,

Ron

WORKMAN WORKSHOPS

Rora House Week-End Bible School, Easter 1994

Galatians Worksheet No 2

The purpose of this Worksheet is to draw attention to the time that the letter to the churches in Galatia was written.

Recognizing the time that a letter is written can greatly affect the way we interpret that letter. Did events cause the letter to be written or did the letter affect the events?

Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia is an important example of this principle. Clearly something had provoked the Spirit of God in Paul as he wrote this letter. The strength of the reaction is seen in several words that are used; *accursed, foolish, bewitched*.

It is obvious that Paul is not addressing a minor doctrinal variation that has developed, but something which is

striking at the very root of the Christian revelation.

Galatians is probably the beginning of Paul's ministry of letter writing. Perhaps only the letter of James is earlier.

It is useful to compare the letter of James with the letter to the Galatians. Together they give a kind of historical "snap-shot" of an exact moment in time.

James was written to a synagogue setting which explains the "mixed-multitude" that is addressed. Some have called it a sub-Christian letter, and some have questioned whether or not it ought to be in the bible at all!

Galatians, on the other hand was written to Christian congregations which had come into

existence as a result of the life and ministry of Barnabas & Paul. Those churches faced problems different to those of any synagogues.

James and Galatians are not just historical documents however. They are *scripture* breathed out by God, and of lasting consequence. The circumstances which they address are ones which, in principle, we shall meet while this gospel age lasts.

As you read the Acts pause at the end of Chapter 14, and then read the letter to the Galatians. The events of Acts Chapter 15 really describe the next stage in the story.

The main themes of Galatians are then given a fuller exposition in Romans: The Gospel according to Paul.

Countdown to Easter '94

In the next few weeks it would be good to begin to assemble a few necessary tools for the coming Week-End Bible School.

- a small (6"x4") notebook to jot down discoveries or queries from your own current readings of Galatians
- an A4 paper pad with holes already punched
- a clipboard (or similar hard surface) so that you can take notes on your lap during the sessions
- another translation for comparison e.g. NASV (we shall base the studies on the AV (& NKJV))

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Reading schedule

Fifth & Sixth weeks

Pre-Galatians

- Acts 1,2 The End of the Old & The Start of the New
- Acts 3,4 Great Grace among the Jewish Community
- Acts 5,6 The Day of Salvation
- Acts 7,8 Stephen's Triumph & The Samaritan Harvest
- Acts 9,10 God's Preparations for the Gentiles
- Acts 11,12 Persecution & Dispersion
- Acts 13,14 Antioch, Cyprus & Galatia

Galatians was written during the brief period between Acts Chapter 14 & Acts Chapter 15

- Acts 15 The Jerusalem Conference

Seventh & Eighth weeks

Post-Galatians

- Rom 1,2 Mankind is Guilty
- Rom 3 There's No Difference
- Rom 4 Abraham's Experience
- Rom 5,6 This Grace...
- Rom 7 The Contrast
- Rom 8 Life in the Spirit
- Rom 9,10,11 All Israel shall be saved
- Rom 12,13 The New Ministry
- Rom 14,15 Caring & Conscience
- Rom 16 Greetings & Exhortations

STOP PRESS

At the time of writing this second Worksheet there are 28 people enrolled for the course with a few others still expressing interest.

How did you get on with the Reading Schedule for the first four weeks? There is slightly less to read this time so please take the opportunity to read and re-read Galatians.

There will still be opportunity for folk to enrol right up to Easter itself, but those who have been able to do the background reading ought to be better equipped to get the most out of the short time we will spend together.

Mark & Gill Newham are scheduled to be with us, fresh from Mongolia.

see you soon,

RON

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keep taking the tablets

...in other words keep reading the letter to the Galatians. Try to read Galatians at least once a week. It only takes 15 minutes.

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Galatians Worksheet No 3

The year is AD 47. Fourteen years ago the soldiers of Tiberius Caesar executed Jesus of Nazareth outside Jerusalem's wall. Contrary to all expectation the number of His followers still increases, and now includes many non-Jews.

The year is AD 47. Four years ago four legions of Claudius Caesar crossed the channel and began the conquest and occupation of Britain.

The conquering legions are pushing out the westernmost frontiers of the Roman Empire. The Ninth Hispanic legion, building the Ermine Street as they go, are approaching Lincoln and will establish a garrison town there.

The Second Augusta legion is under Vespasian. Later he will

become Emperor himself, and his son Titus will watch over the destruction of Jerusalem.

The Second Legion has conquered the Isle of Wight and having subdued Dorset and Wiltshire is marching towards Exeter.

The other legions are not so easy to trace, but Silchester (south of Reading) Cirencester, Gloucester and the whole of middle England is now under Roman occupation and will be for another three hundred and fifty years.

Almost certainly there will be some among these legions who are recent followers of the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth. They and the merchants who follow them will be the first missionaries to these cold and misty islands.

The year is AD 47, and towards the easternmost frontier of the mighty Roman Empire a man sits at a table in Syrian Antioch.

Disturbing news from afar and disturbing events nearer to home are weighing heavily upon him.

He spreads a piece of papyrus before him, dips his reed in the ink and begins to pour out the aches and longings of his heart in a letter to the new followers of Christ who live in the Roman Province of Galatia.

The year is AD 1994 Claudius Caesar's conquering legions have marched into history and the mighty Roman Empire is no more...

...the letter lives on!

Countdown to Easter '94

- please bring the following study equipment
- a small (6"x4") notebook to jot down discoveries or queries from your own current readings of Galatians
 - an A4 paper pad with holes already punched
 - a clipboard (or similar hard surface) so that you can take notes on your lap during the sessions
 - another translation for comparison e.g. NASV (we shall base the studies on the AV (& NKJV))
 - an A4 ring binder to hold printed handouts

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Divide and Conquer

One of many ways of studying a bible book is by *analysis*. This simply implies that we split up the book into parts to make it easier to assimilate. It is much the same as the process of *biting*, and *chewing* to aid digestion.

It has many advantages, and a few disadvantages too. The main disadvantage is that we lose the flow and sense of life. Things which are bitten into pieces and chewed are somewhat likely to lose their life!

When we come to study Galatians together we shall need to do so with some kind of system so we shall use an *analysis*. The one found here is based on that of a Scots bible teacher; Dr. W. Graham Scroggie.

It is a very simple analysis and not too highly structured so it leaves room for some flexibility of approach.

This month's reading assignment is to read and re-read the letter to the Galatians. As you read keep this *analysis* at hand. You will quickly

see how reasonable it is, and the *analysis* will serve as a mental map of Galatians.

In many ways it doesn't really matter how perfect the *analysis* is. The simple fact of putting it into bite size portions will aid the process of digestion.

It is good to remember as we read that although there is a steady logic to Galatians, it is only the Spirit who can reveal and interpret His own utterances. Peter once introduced a psalm by saying that God spoke by the mouth of David. In Galatians God speaks by the pen of Paul.

Salutation and Subject	1:1-10
A. A Personal History 1:11-2:217	
Paul declares His apostolic authority	
1. his God-given revelation	1:11-17
2. his links with Peter & the churches	1:18-24
3. his reception in Jerusalem	2:1-10
4. his conflict with Peter	2:11-21
B. A Doctrinal Argument 3:1-5:1	
Justification is by faith in Christ alone	
1. The Doctrine argued & applied	3:1-29
2. The Doctrine illustrated & applied	4:1-5:1
C. A Practical Exhortation 5:2-6:10	
Enter into the full consequences of freedom	
1. The effective spoiling of liberty	5:2-12
2. The highest expression of liberty	5:13-15
3. The abiding secret of liberty	5:16-26
4. The practical outcome of liberty	6:1-10
Summary & Conclusions	6:11-18

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☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

STOP PRESS

If the weather permits there will be a gentle walk on the moors for those who want to on the Saturday in the afternoon.

So add some stout shoes to your equipment list.

The readings this month are just Galatians, Galatians and more Galatians. Do try to read Galatians in another version at least once before you come to Rora.

I'm very aware that this is a different kind of venture, so we shall be apprentices together. Seven sessions will be structured, and disciplined without being set in cast iron, but the Saturday evening will be an open session, and will take more of the shape of a meeting. Sunday morning will be spent as part of the Rora Fellowship.

see you soon,

Ron