

13. Study of Galatians

1. Purpose of the Lecture

- 1) To understand the theological core of Paul's Epistle to the Galatians.
 - 2) To grasp Paul's doctrine of justification by faith in contrast to legalism.
 - 3) To explore the life of freedom and sanctification in the Spirit.
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2. Introduction

- 1) Author: The Apostle Paul
 - 2) Recipients: The churches of the Galatian region
 - 3) Background: A strong response to Judaizers who were promoting observance of the Mosaic Law (especially circumcision).
 - 4) Central Theme: Justification by faith alone, freedom in Christ, and life in the Spirit.
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3. Structure and Outline of Galatians

Chapter	Summary	Theme
1-2	Paul's defense of his apostleship	The Gospel from God, not man
3-4	Faith vs. Law	Abraham's faith, the limitations of the Law
5-6	Freedom and life in the Spirit	Works of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit, serving one another in love

4. Key Theological Themes

1) Justification by Faith

- (1) Key verse: Galatians 2:16 — "A person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ..."
- (2) Justification is not by human effort or law-keeping, but solely by faith in Christ.

2) The Role of the Law

- (1) The Law reveals sin (Gal. 3:24)
- (2) It cannot bring salvation
- (3) After faith has come, believers are no longer under the Law

3) Freedom and the Holy Spirit

- (1) "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free..." (Gal. 5:1)
- (2) "Walk by the Spirit..." (Gal. 5:16)
- (3) The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23)

5. Relevance to the Contemporary Church

- 1) Legalism in modern Christianity: Warning against relying on religious performance
 - 2) True freedom: Not license to sin, but life guided by the Spirit
 - 3) Maturity through the Spirit's fruit: A measure of ethical and communal growth
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6. Discussion Questions

- 1) How does legalism manifest in today's churches?
 - 2) How can the fruit of the Spirit be practiced in everyday life?
 - 3) What is true "freedom" in the Gospel, and how is it different from worldly freedom?
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7. Conclusion

- 1) The Epistle to the Galatians captures the very heart of Paul's gospel:
 - 2) justification by faith alone and living by the Spirit.
 - 3) It not only confronts theological errors but also offers a blueprint for Christian freedom, maturity, and Spirit-led living in today's world.
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