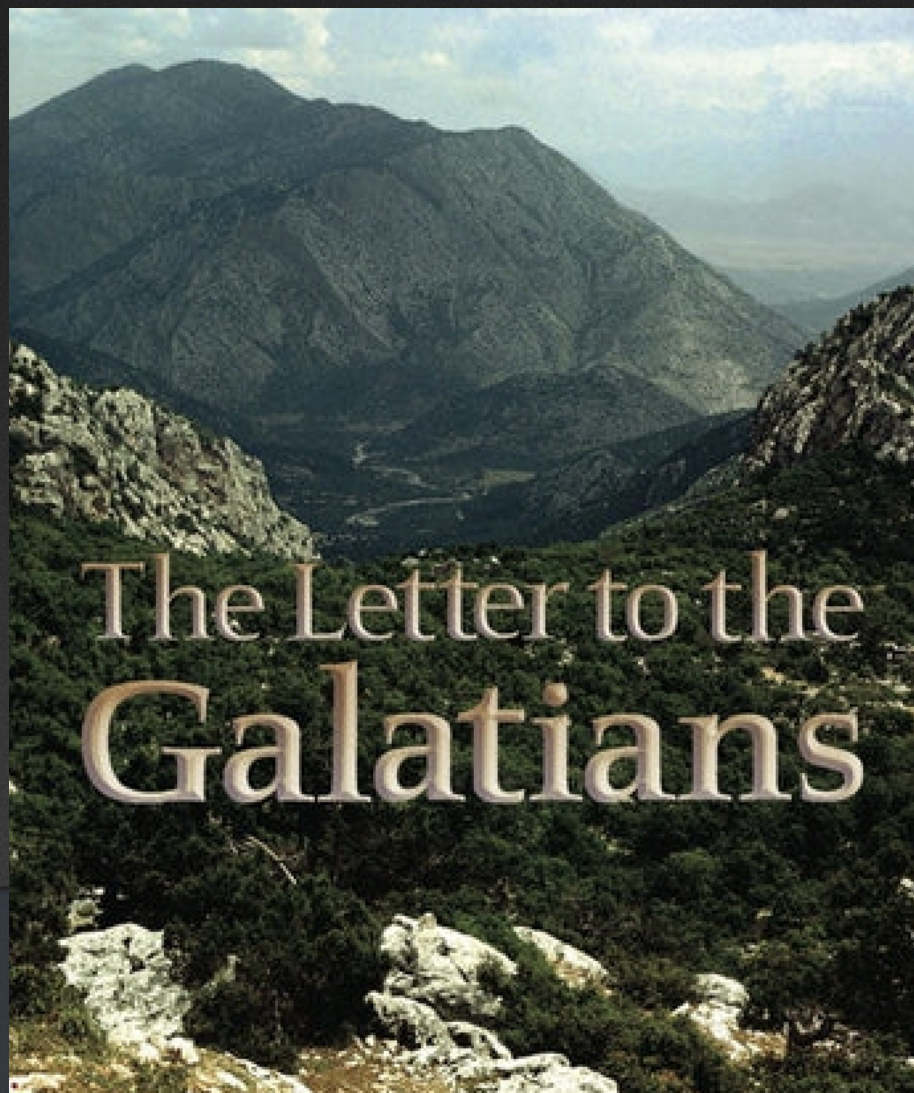


September 25–October 1
Galatians
“Walk in the Spirit”



Introduction

Bruce R. McConkie

“These Galatians are Gentile converts. They are now being contaminated by Jewish-Christians who tell them they must live the law of Moses to be saved. *Paul’s purpose is to call them back to Christ and his gospel.*

“Galatians is thus written to people who are losing the true faith, who are adopting false doctrines and ordinances, who are being overcome by the world, who are commingling the dead law of Moses with the living word which is in Christ.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 2:455)

Recognize and Forsake False Doctrine

Gal 1:6-9

What had the Galatian's done that surprised Paul and what was he warning them about?

What was the standard Paul set for staying on the gospel path?

Howard W. Hunter

"Paul taught the true gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Galatia and, after he left them, spurious teachers came and turned them from his teachings. This gave rise to the letter written by Paul in strong language of criticism, denouncing those who would pervert his teachings.

"Today is not different. We are surrounded by frustrations and advances in thought and learning which raise questions and doubts. These seem to drag men down and destroy faith and morality. Where, then, is hope in this world of frustration and moral decay? It lies in the knowledge and understanding of the truths taught by the Master, which must be taught by the Church of Christ without deviation." (CR, Oct 1973)

Recognize and Forsake False Doctrine

Gal 1:10-12

What is a standard Paul gives us to tell if someone is teaching the true gospel?

Bruce R. McConkie

"It was with Paul as it is with us-of course we are taught the gospel by others; of course we study it out of the revealed word; but in the final analysis, it comes to us by revelation, the Holy Spirit of God bearing witness to the spirit within us that the holy word is true. In the ultimate and true sense, it does not come to us by the power of man, but by the power of God. And thus we build our house of salvation upon the rock of revelation." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 489)

Recognize and Forsake False Doctrine

Gal 3:1-5

What do you think Paul meant by, “having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

John Taylor

"This people know something of God; and if they do not there is not anybody under the heavens that does.... If they do not, what better are we than the world? It would be with us as with some of the ancient Saints, who were told they had commenced in the spirit and sought to be made perfect in the flesh; they commenced with the wisdom of God and sought to perfect themselves by worldly wisdom and human judgment. *To know God and the ways of life is infinitely more important than any worldly consideration.*" (JD, 10:113)

Recognize and Forsake False Doctrine

Gal 4:3-9

How had the Galatians gained an understanding that God was their spiritual Father?

John Taylor

“We are trying to feel after our Heavenly Father and he is trying to have us feel after him, and he is pouring out his Spirit upon us from time to time, and causing us to cry, 'Abba, Father,' and to feel that we are his children, and therefore we feel to bow with reverence before him as our Father, our God and deliverer, and to put our trust in him.... That which flows from the Great Eloheim will deliver us from our folly and bring us out of the labyrinth of mystery into the light of truth.” (JD, 9:275)

One Gospel For All Cultures

Gal 2:11-14

What argument did Paul make for not compelling Gentiles to live as Jews

What lesson can we learn about separating culture from the gospel?

Why do you think it was so difficult for the Jewish Christians to let go of their culture?

Dallin H. Oaks

"In these examples I am not contrasting the culture or traditions of one part of the world with another. I am contrasting the Lord's way with the world's way—the culture of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the culture or traditions of every nation or people. No group has a monopoly on virtue or an immunity from the commandment to change. Jesus and His Apostles did not attempt to make Gentiles into Jews. They taught Gentiles and Jews, attempting to make each of them into followers of Christ." (CR, Oct. 2003)

One Gospel For All Cultures

Gal 3:26-29

What is promised to all – Jew and Gentile – who take upon them the name of Christ?

Russell M. Nelson

"On every continent and across isles of the sea, the faithful are being gathered into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Differences in cultural background, language, gender, and facial features fade into insignificance as members lose themselves in service to their beloved Savior. Paul's declaration is being fulfilled: 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.'

"Only the comprehension of the true Fatherhood of God can bring full appreciation of the true brotherhood of man. That understanding inspires desire to build bridges of cooperation instead of walls of segregation."
(CR, April 1994)

Justification

Gal 3:6-9

How is it possible that anyone, not just decedents of Abraham, can receive the blessings and promises made to Abraham?

What does it mean to be justified?

What are some other words or phrases we use in the gospel that are synonymous with justification?

Bruce R. McConkie

"By the law of adoption those who receive the gospel and obey its laws, no matter what their literal blood lineage may have been, are adopted into the lineage of Abraham.

"The faithful are adopted to the family of Christ; they become 'the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters'; they are 'spiritually begotten,' for their 'hearts are changed through faith on his name,' thus being 'born of him,' becoming 'his sons and his daughters' (Mosiah 5:7)." (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 23)

"To be pardoned from punishment for sin and declared
guiltless"

(Guide to the Scriptures, "Justification, Justify," scriptures.lds.org)

"Being born again justifies us before the Lord"

(Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual Religion 430 and 431, pg. 49)

Justification

Gal 2:16-20

What does Paul say that makes it clear that he has been justified?

Bruce R. McConkie

"This wondrous concept is one about which the apostles of old had much to say. 'I am crucified with Christ' (Gal 2:20), Paul said, meaning that he had 'crucified' the 'old man,... the body of sin,' that henceforth he 'should not serve sin' (Rom 6:6). As a result he was able to say: 'Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God' (Gal 2:20)." (The Promised Messiah: The First Coming of Christ, pg. 125)

Justification

Gal 5:1,13-14

How has Christ given everyone the opportunity for true liberty and freedom?

What should we do with this freedom that Christ has given us?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"True freedom lies in obedience to the counsels of God. It was said of old that 'the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light' (Prov 6:23).

"The gospel is not a philosophy of repression, as so many regard it. It is a plan of freedom that gives discipline to appetite and direction to behavior. Its fruits are sweet and its rewards are liberal." (CR, April 1965)

Justification

Gal 5:16-17

What do we need to do to successfully turn away from the things of the flesh?

Russell M. Nelson

"We can change our behavior. Our very desires can change. How? There is only one way. True change—permanent change—can come only through the healing, cleansing, and enabling power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. He loves you—each of you! He allows you to access His power as you keep His commandments, eagerly, earnestly, and exactly. It is that simple and certain. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of change!

"A strong human spirit with control over appetites of the flesh is master over emotions and passions and not a slave to them. That kind of freedom is as vital to the spirit as oxygen is to the body! Freedom from self-slavery is true liberation!" (CR, Oct. 2013)

Justification

Gal 6:7-10

What do you think Paul means when he says that we should, “soweth to the Spirit”?

Marvin J. Ashton

"There are those who dangle false enticements of peace before us. These are they who are greedy and power hungry. Be not deceived; God is not mocked:... He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.' Inner peace flees from those who sacrifice virtue for sexual promiscuity. Wickedness, no matter how it is labeled or camouflaged, will eventually bring grief and heartache and wipe out inner peace.

"Peace will never be the possession of those who participate in vulgar conversations and behavior. *Let us not be planters of poisonous seeds. Rather let us nourish roots of peace in the soil of righteous principles.*" (CR, Oct. 1985)

Justification

Gal 5:19-26

What do you think Paul means when he says that we should, “soweth to the Spirit”?

David O. McKay

"You remember what Paul says in his epistle to the Galatians, about the works of the flesh...

"And then in contrast he says: 'Now the fruits of the spirit are these, love, joy, peace' and so on, and the blessings that will follow. There are two things always that we should keep in mind: one, the beauty of a righteous life; the other, the warning against indulgence in the evil life, and you cannot get away from that." (CR, April 1949)

Next Week:

October 2–8

Ephesians

“For the Perfecting of the Saints”

