

1. Opening remarks

Let me remind you of the 3 challenges for you:

- read through the entire book of Galatians twice each day this week
- write out the whole book of Galatians by hand this week
- read Galatians through each day for 30 days after this week

Why do I ask you to do this? To immerse ourselves fully in God's Word ... let it fill our mind, heart & spirit.

Galatians is a very important teaching epistle.

A. The central doctrine of the letter is "the just shall live by faith" Gal 3:11

We will try to understand what that means in two main areas: BECOMING a Christian
LIVING the Christian life

So, # 1. A person becomes a Christian by faith in Christ alone ... believing that He is all I need for salvation.

2. A Christian is to live every aspect of life trusting His power to work in me ... resting in the fullness & perfections of Christ.

In becoming a Christian AND living for Christ:-

- ⇒ it is not of merit, but by God's grace ...
- ⇒ it is not of works, but by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...
- ⇒ it is not of ourselves or our flesh, but of the Holy Spirit...

We START the Christian Life by faith in Christ, and we LIVE the Christian life by faith in Christ!

There is a wonderful freedom in understanding & living the truth of this!

B. This central doctrine is applied practically in Gal 2:19-20 to both starting the Christian life and living the Christian life:

"For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

There a number of other verses that we will see that develop this specific practical theme.

To get a quick overview of Galatians, let us take a quick tour, highlighting key verses and statements through the letter:
(Please follow along in your Bible)

- Gal 1:6 “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel”
- Gal 2:16 “ a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ”
- Gal 2:19-21
- Gal 3:2-3
- Gal 3:10 “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse”
- Gal 3:11 ““THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”
- Gal 3:13-14
- Gal 3:24 “the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
- Gal 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Gal 4:4-7
- Gal 4:21 “Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?”
- Gal 4:31 “So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.”
- Gal 5:1
- Gal 5:3 every man who becomes circumcised is a debtor to keep the whole law.
- Gal 5:5-6
- Gal 5:13-14
- Gal 5:16-18 “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”
- Gal 5:22-25
- Gal 6:7-8
- Gal 6:14 “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Galatians is a spiritually rich & challenging part of the New Testament. Please be in prayer that the Lord will open our ears & eyes & hearts through Galatians this week. Pray that it will not merely be interesting information ... but rather powerful transformation. Let us each ask the Lord what He wants to say to us and do in us this week, for His glory.

Especially ask the Lord to imprint on our hearts the force of Gal 2:19-20 ““*For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*”