

## Introduction: On Expository Preaching

“Authentic expository preaching is marked by three distinct marks or characteristics: authority, reverence, and centrality. [It] is authoritative because it stands upon the authority of the Bible as the word of God. Such preaching requires and reinforces a sense of reverent expectation on the part of God’s people. Finally, [it] demands the central place in Christian worship and is respected as the event through which the living God speaks to his people.” –Albert Mohler (From *Give Praise to God*)

**Main Point:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul’s letter to the Galatians shows how he defends, explains, and applies the Gospel while its \_\_\_\_\_ emphasize important doctrinal truths that support his overall argument.

## The Structure of Galatians

### • Paul’s defense of the Gospel. (Gal. 1:1-2:14)

- (1) The Galatians are in danger of turning away from the Word of God just as \_\_\_\_\_ had done throughout her history (1:6)
- (2) The Gospel Paul preached did not have its origin with \_\_\_\_\_, but with \_\_\_\_\_. (1:11-12)
- (3) Paul was recognized as a fellow-\_\_\_\_\_ by the leaders of the church in Jerusalem and he even felt free to correct them on the implications of the Gospel. (2:9,11)

**Key Point:** Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ should be recognized as authoritative because they were entrusted to him by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### • Paul’s theology of the Gospel. (Gal. 2:15-4:31)

- (1) Salvation is through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ alone and not by works of the law. (2:16)
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ stands as the biblical example of faith in the promises of God. (3:7-9)
- (3) Believers are the true sons of God by \_\_\_\_\_ and not according works of the Law. (4:28-31)

**Key Point:** Paul makes it clear that the message of the Gospel is in \_\_\_\_\_ with the salvation anticipated in the Old Testament which has now been accomplished through Jesus Christ.

### • Paul’s application of the Gospel. (Gal. 5:1-6:18)

- (1) The Christian life is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_. (5:1)
- (2) The Christian life is characterized by the Spirit’s \_\_\_\_\_. (5:16-26)
- (3) The life of the church is the be characterized by \_\_\_\_\_. (5:13-15, 6:1-5)

**Key Point:** God’s people are to live by the power of His Spirit as His new \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

## Important Themes in Galatians

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Eschatology

Gal. 1:3-4—3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Gal. 6:14-15—14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation

*Which aspects of God’s promises are \_\_\_\_\_ and which are \_\_\_\_\_?*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ by Faith

Gal. 2:16— yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Gal. 3:12-14—<sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— <sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

*How is it that sinners can be declared \_\_\_\_\_ by a holy God?*

3. Freedom from \_\_\_\_\_ and Adoption as \_\_\_\_\_

Gal. 3:25-27—<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal. 4:28-29,31—<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now...<sup>31</sup> So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

*What is the uniqueness of our \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ and what is our relationship to the OT Law?*

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of the Christian Life

Gal. 5:16-18—<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal. 5:22-25—<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

*How do we \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian life?*

5. The Centrality of the \_\_\_\_\_

Gal. 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal. 6:14—But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

*What are the implications of our \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ?*

**Key Point:** These doctrinal themes come together to exhort the Galatians to believe the \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel of God's grace in Christ and not to be deceived by false teachers that would place them under the Law.

“In [Galatians], [Paul] sets forth the true character of salvation as being given by grace from beginning to end, not earned by law-keeping either in whole or in part. Good works are not a condition of salvation, but a fruit of it. The Christian has died to the law; he leads a life of holiness, not by his own efforts, but by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.” --William MacDonald

### Concluding Thoughts

- The message of Galatians helps to guard us from looking to \_\_\_\_\_ rather than to the sufficiency of Christ's work on our behalf.
- The message of Galatians helps to guard us from both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in how we live our lives as Christians.

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**Main Point:** The structure of Paul’s letter to the Galatians shows how he defends, explains, and applies the Gospel while its themes emphasize important doctrinal truths that support his overall argument.

## The Structure of Galatians

### • Paul’s defense of the Gospel. (Gal. 1:1-2:14)

- (1) The Galatians are in danger of turning away from the Word of God just as Israel had done throughout her history (1:6)
- (2) The Gospel Paul preached did not have its origin with man, but with God. (1:11-12)
- (3) Paul was recognized as a fellow-apostle by the leaders of the church in Jerusalem and he even felt free to correct them on the implications of the Gospel. (2:9,11)

**Key Point:** Paul’s message and mission should be recognized as authoritative because they were entrusted to him by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### • Paul’s theology of the Gospel. (Gal. 2:15-4:31)

- (1) Salvation is through faith in Christ alone and not by works of the law. (2:16)
- (2) Abraham stands as the biblical example of faith in the promises of God. (3:7-9)
- (3) Believers are the true sons of God by promise and not according works of the Law. (4:28-31)

**Key Point:** Paul makes it clear that the message of the Gospel is in harmony with the salvation anticipated in the Old Testament which has now been accomplished through Jesus Christ.

### • Paul’s application of the Gospel. (Gal. 5:1-6:18)

- (1) The Christian life is characterized by freedom. (5:1)
- (2) The Christian life is characterized by the Spirit’s leading. (5:16-26)
- (3) The life of the church is to be characterized by love. (5:13-15, 6:1-5)

**Key Point:** God’s people are to live by the power of His Spirit as His new creations in Christ.

## Important Themes in Galatians

### 1. Realized Eschatology

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*Which aspects of God’s promises are already and which are not yet?*

## 2. Justification by Faith

Gal. 2:16— yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

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*How is it that sinners can be declared righteous by a holy God?*

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*What is the uniqueness of our identity in Jesus Christ and what is our relationship to the OT Law?*

## 4. The Spiritual Nature of the Christian Life

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*How do we live the Christian life?*

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*What are the implications of our union with Christ?*

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- The message of Galatians helps to guard us from looking to functional saviors rather than to the sufficiency of Christ's work on our behalf.
- The message of Galatians helps to guard us from both legalism and license in how we live our lives as Christians.