

# Galatians Study Guide | Vol 1 of 3

## Theme: The Verdict of Rescue

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### Glossary & Conventions

To navigate this study with rigor, we use specific linguistic and historical tools. These ensure our orientation is based on the **Objective Reality** of the Word, rather than the "Sand" of subjective feelings or tribal approval.

- **LGHG Framework:**
  - **L (Literal):** The plain, intended meaning of the text in its original setting.
  - **G (Grammatical):** Analyzing the "physics" of the Greek (tenses, moods, and voices).
  - **H (Historical):** The 1st-century Roman and Jewish legal, social, and tribal landscape.

- **G (Genre):** Identifying the specific literary form (e.g., Forensic Argument, Personal Letter).
  - **The Sand:** A metaphor for any system of "seeking and gaining approval" through fleshy effort, religious performance, or tribal belonging.
  - **The Foundation of Freedom:** The forensic, unchangeable standing we possess solely due to Christ's performance, which acts as the bedrock for all spiritual orientation.
  - **The Sanctifier:** The Holy Spirit, who does not "fix" the old man, but manifests the **New Creation** through the friction of our daily struggles.
  - **Systemic Collapse:** The moment when human pride, religious pedigree, or self-justification is rendered useless by the staggering weight of the Cross.
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## Introduction: The Dimensional Shift

**Text Focus:** Galatians 1:1-10

According to Jesus Christ, foundation is a matter of life and death (Matt 7:24-27) and in Galatians the Apostle Paul is addressing a crisis of foundation. The Galatian believers had not just changed their "opinions"; they were moving away from the only objective reality that provides a standing before God. They were deserting the Gospel for a system that cannot sustain life.

**The "Other" Gospel:** Paul identifies the threat as a *heteros* gospel. In the Greek, *allos* means "another of the same kind," but *heteros* means "another of a completely different kind." This signals that a "Jesus + My Performance" gospel is not a variation of the truth; it is a genetic mutation that is spiritually dead.

**The Standpoint of the Study:** The Gospel is a **Rescue Mission**, not a self-improvement seminar. Paul uses the word *exaireō* (v. 4)—a military term for rescuing a prisoner from a war zone. This is the **Systemic Collapse** of self-help. You did not "improve" your way out of the world; you were snatched out by a Verdict. This week, we orient ourselves around this Rescue.

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## Monday: The Rescue Mission

**Text:** Galatians 1:3-5 (HCSB) — *"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age..."*

**This Opening** is the first landmark of the nature of our salvation. If you believe you are contributing to your standing with God, you are building on **Sand**. Paul identifies Jesus as the one who *gave Himself* to **rescue** us. There is no other way. In John 14.6 Jesus Himself said He is "The way, the truth and the life."

*Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way to where I am going." "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where You're going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

~John 14.1-7 (HCSB)

**Think of the implicit truths:** Fear of God is replaced with faith in Christ; He is preparing dwelling places; he is coming back for his own; we will forever be in His presence.

He, not me, is the way, truth and life.

### The LGHG Deep Dive:

- **Linguistic Note:** The word for "rescue" (*exaireō*) means to pluck out or deliver from certain destruction.
- **Historical Context:** In ancient military terms, this referred to a king delivering his subjects from a siege.
- **Systemic Collapse:** You were a drowning person, not a swimmer who just needed a better stroke. The Gospel is an objective rescue mission.

**The Reality:** You are not "on trial" today. You are a rescued prisoner of war. Your effectiveness for the Kingdom begins with the realization that the war for your soul has already been won by the King.

**Resolve to Rest** in the Rescue. Today, stop trying to save yourself. You've already been plucked out of death and are now a child of the King. Today, Arise from the ashes of your effort and stand on the Rock of your Salvation.

Prayerfully ask the Lord to help you memorize the truths from John 7 today.

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## Tuesday: The Counterfeit Map

**Text:** Galatians 1:6-9 (HCSB) — *"I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away... to a different gospel."*

**The Opening:** The "old fleshy and tribal ways" are experts at drawing maps that look like the truth but lead back into slavery. This is the crisis of the Church: seeking approval through performance rather than through the Person of Jesus. Listen to how he rebukes those who turn away from the realities of the kingdom.

In John 8, an amazing glimpse in the Life of Jesus shows us: **1)** Human effort cannot trick Him. When the group tried to get Jesus to condemn the woman caught in adultery, it backfired. **2)** Authority does not rest in human "fathers" but in our Heavenly Father. And knowing Him is necessary; "You know neither Me nor My Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew Me, you would also know My Father." **3)** He told the unbelieving but religious, "I'm going away; you will look for Me, and you will die in your sin. Where I'm going, you cannot come." **4)** He is the light of life and that is not only true but validated by the father, because the Father raised Him. (Galatians 1.1) **5)** Jesus claimed exclusive right to "the truth" when He said to the believing Jews, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **6)** Refusing to listen is proof of not being correct concerning things about God: "This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God. Much more may be written, but you understand from this, God is not mocked.

### The LGHG Deep Dive:

- **Grammatical Note:** Paul uses the word *metatithesthe* (turning away/deserting). This is a military term for a turncoat or a defector.
- **Historical Context:** The "Judaizers" were not telling people to stop believing in Jesus; they were telling them to add tribal markers (law/circumcision) to Jesus to be "truly" right.
- **Meaning:** Jesus + Anything = Nothing. If the map requires your "extra" work to reach God, the map is a counterfeit designed to make you ineffective.

**The Reality:** Legalism is "Spiritual Insanity" because it tries to buy what has already been given. It turns the believer's eyes away from the Cross and back onto the self.

**Resolve to Rest** in the Sufficiency of Christ. If you are tempted to "add" to your holiness today to feel approved, realize that the map is lying to you. Christ is your only orientation.

Prayerfully Read John 8 and rest in the true freedom the Word gives in Christ Jesus.

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## Wednesday: The Origin of the Message

**Text:** Galatians 1:11-12 (HCSB) — *"For I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin... I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."*

**The Opening:** How do we know we aren't following a human "opinion"? Paul anchors his authority not in a committee, a denomination, or a tribe, but in a **Revelation**.

Jesus has strong opinions about the Scriptures and their importance:

- 1) "Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished." ~Matthew 5:17-18
- 2) "The Scripture cannot be broken." ~John 10:35
- 3) "You are deceived, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God." ~Matthew 22:29
- 4) "You abandon the command of God and hold to human tradition... You revoke God's word because of your tradition that you have handed down." ~Mark 7:8-13
- 5) "Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth." ~ John 17:17

He is The Word (John 1.1) unchanging (Hebrews 13.8) and by His Word all things are that are. (Col 1.16) Trust what the word reveals.

### The LGHG Deep Dive:

- **Grammatical Note:** Paul uses the word *apokalypsis* (revelation), meaning an "unveiling" of something that was always there but hidden.
- **Systemic Collapse:** This signals that the Gospel is not a human philosophy. It is an **Objective Reality** unveiled by God.
- **Historical Note:** Paul is defending his apostleship against those who claim he "learned it" from the other apostles. His message came directly from the Source.

**The Reality:** Because the Gospel is a revelation from God, it is not subject to the "Sand" of human cultural shifts or tribal approval. It is an unchanging Foundation.

**Resolve to Rest** in the Word. You aren't following "cleverly devised myths." You are standing on a Reality that was unveiled by God Himself.

Prayerfully read through the 5 verses about Christ's opinion of the Word. Adopt them today.

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## Thursday: The Violent Grace

**Text:** Galatians 1:13-16 (HCSB) — *"For you have heard about my former way of life... But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me..."*

**The Opening:** Grace is not passive; it is violent. It breaks through the most "fleshy and tribal" defenses, throwing elbows left and right. Paul was a violent religious zealot, the ultimate "Law-performer," when Grace "hit" him and destroyed his old orientation. The Strong man was bound. Listen to Jesus:

"But no one can enter a strong man's house and rob his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house." ~Mark 3:27 Jesus describes salvation as an invasion:

- A strong man guards his house.
- Someone stronger breaks in.
- He binds him.
- He plunders what he once controlled.

That is violent grace. Paul was not spiritually neutral. He was a "strong man" – armed with law, zeal, tribe, and violence. Grace did not gently advise him. It overpowered him. It bound the old master. It seized him for a new allegiance. Just as Jesus described:

- A stronger authority enters.
- The old regime is restrained.
- What belongs to darkness is carried out into light.

Grace does not negotiate with the old orientation. It overthrows it. Still fighting?

### The LGHG Deep Dive:

- **Linguistic Note:** Paul says God was "pleased" (*eudokeō*) to reveal His Son.
- **Historical Context:** Paul's "former way of life" in Judaism was built on the height of tribal pride.
- **Systemic Collapse:** This was God's sovereign choice, not Paul's "decision." Grace is not a reward for seeking God; it is God finding you when you were actively running the other way.

**The Reality:** You are not "too far gone," and your struggles do not surprise God. He set you apart before you had the chance to perform.

**Resolve to Rest: Resolve to Rest** in God's Initiative. If He could rescue a murderer like Saul, He can certainly sustain you today. Your foundation is His pleasure, not your progress. Allow Him to restrain you today. Live in the fruit. Exercise the gifts.

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## Friday: The Execution of the "I"

**Text:** Galatians 2:20 (HCSB) — *"I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."*

**The Opening:** This is the moment the scalpel hits the ego. This is the **Systemic Collapse** of the self-project. For the Gospel to be a Rescue, the old "I"—the version of you that tried to save itself—has to be executed. It's more than mental ascent. It's the transferral of ownership. Christ is very comprehensive when he describes the level of allegiance he requires:

### 1) Hating Family in Comparison to Allegiance to Him

Gospel of Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, and even his own life — he cannot be My disciple."

He is not commanding emotional hostility. He is declaring **supreme allegiance**. Every competing loyalty — family, tribe, identity, even self-preservation — must lose ownership rights. That is execution language.

### 2) Taking Up the Cross

Gospel of Luke 9:23

"If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

In the first century, a cross was not metaphorical self-improvement. It meant:

- Public death.
  - Loss of control.
  - State-authorized execution.
- "Deny himself" is not self-discipline.

It is **disowning the self as ultimate authority**.

### 3) Losing Life to Save It

Gospel of Matthew 16:25

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it.”

The self-project — saving, preserving, securing — must collapse. Only surrendered life is resurrected life.

Galatians 2:20 is not metaphorical enthusiasm but transfer of ownership.

- The old “I” — performer, tribe-loyalist, self-savior — is executed.
- The authority structure changes.
- “Christ lives in me.”

Jesus already announced this path:

- Hate lesser loyalties.
- Carry the instrument of death.
- Lose your life.

Paul is not innovating.

He is describing the fulfillment of what Jesus required.

#### The LGHG Deep Dive:

- **Grammatical Note:** "Crucified with" (*synestaurōmai*) is in the **Perfect Tense**.
- **Linguistic Note:** This indicates a past action with permanent, ongoing present results.
- **Meaning:** You don't have to "die to self" every day to *be* saved; you live out of the reality that the "Old Man" is already legally dead. Christ is now the "Occupant" of your life.

**The Reality:** The **Sanctifier** works by reminding you that your old self-justification project is over. You are free from the burden of being "the one who makes it happen."

**Resolve to Rest** in the Execution. Stop trying to revive a corpse. Christ is doing the living through you today. Ask Him to help you right now. He will.

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## Conclusion: The Verdict of Rescue

**Text:** Galatians 2:21

We have walked through the rubble of our own self-effort. We have seen that any "gospel" that relies on tribal approval is a counterfeit that leads only to ineffectiveness and "Spiritual Insanity."

**The Verdict:** The **Verdict of Rescue** is final. Paul concludes: *"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing."* In other words, if your performance matters for your standing, the Cross was a waste of time. Don't fall for that trap. The only guard and cure is The Word of God, not tradition, authority, family or anything else.

**The Final Orientation:** As we move into Week 2, we leave the "Sand" behind. You are not a "work in progress" regarding your standing; you are a rescued prisoner and a dead man or woman made alive. The **Sanctifier** works in you now not to *make* you acceptable, but because you *are* accepted. Arise from the ashes of the flesh and prepare to enter the "Deed of Adoption."