

# DAVID'S MEN

SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD



## Scripture

The Bible is God's Word. It is the most amazing book in the world. It was written over a 1600-year period by 40 different authors from numerous walks of life: shepherds, kings, priests, tax collectors, and more. It was written in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents. Yet there is a silver thread of consistency that runs through the entire Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, we are pointed toward the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, God's character, God's commands, God's plans and God's truths are revealed to the reader. Because God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12a), a person can read a passage of the Bible dozens of times and get something new from it each time. This only happens with the Bible.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "The Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

Josh McDowell, says, "The Bible is the greatest book ever written. It contains the answers to the most important questions of life: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is life all about? The Bible has been called the book of life since it gives significance to all people's lives. It proclaims that Jesus Christ is Lord, the ruler and Savior of all creation."

The Bible speaks of its uniqueness among all books:

- *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16***
- *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12***
- *The grass withers the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. **Isaiah 40:8***
- *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **Matthew 24:35***
- *This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. **Psalms 18:30***

The way to grow closer to anyone is to spend time with them. We should cultivate the habit of having a consistent time set aside each day to spend time with God in reading His Word and in prayer.

The books we read in David's Men are not intended to replace your personal time in God's Word; indeed, nothing can do that. Since the Bible is the most important book we can read, this month we will be focusing on one book in the Bible, the book of Galatians. Pastor Bruce led us through a study of Galatians during mid-2018. This month we will dive deeply into this wonderful book of Scripture.

Galatians is by far the shortest book we will read this year. You will apply a tried and true method of studying the Bible for yourself. **The three keys are Observation, Interpretation and Application** (we'll look at these more during the study).

## Current Month Assignments

- **Spend time in God's word every day for the next 30 days. Read, ponder, and listen.**
  - Days 1-13 Days of the Month: Complete the provided *Galatians Study for David's Men* (one section each day; read the verses and respond to the questions in each section).
  - The rest of the month: Complete one or more of the following options:  
(NOTE: Do not rush through this! Slow down and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. Listen intently. Meditate on what you're reading.)
    - Repeat *Galatians Study for David's Men* and spend additional time on the concepts that stick out to you.
    - Identify a few words/verses in Galatians that stick out to you and meditate on those concepts.
    - Read one chapter of Galatians a day and write down what impacts you.
    - Read Galatians from more than one version of the Bible (e.g., NIV, ESV, CSB, The Message, KJV, etc.).
    - Similar to what we did during the Sexual Purity month, write out the entire book of Galatians (a portion each day). Reflect on what you are writing.
- In lieu of the typical book summary, write a one-page summary covering the following items (based on your study of Galatians):
  - 1-2 verses/concepts that really rocked your world.
  - How did they impact you?
  - How are they going to change your future actions?
  - Reflect on what God showed you during your times of study.
- Memorize the verses attached. Be prepared to quote each verse and reference. Review your verses from previous months to ensure they become deeply rooted.
- Man-date: Discuss what you are learning from Galatians, review your verses from the entire year, and continue to build your relationship.

## Resources:

- *Galatians Study for David's Men* (follows memory verses below)

# Memory Verses

## Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## **+ 1 (for DM veterans)**

Psalm 119:11 - I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

## Galatians Study for David's Men

### Introduction:

The abrupt tone and explosive content of this letter to the Galatians have led many scholars to call it the most emotionally charged book of the Bible. The first few verses let the reader know the apostle Paul is extremely upset with the situation in the Galatian church. Since every word of Scripture is "God breathed" (directed by the Holy Spirit), we know God is directing Paul to write in this manner.

Don't fall into the trap of believing that the length of Galatians (6 chapters) means it is of small importance. In this book, Paul talks about salvation and the fact that we are saved by GRACE and NOT by WORKS. **We are saved by the grace of God the Father sending Jesus as a substitute sacrifice for our sins. We are saved by Jesus only, not Jesus plus something else.**

There is essentially no disagreement that the apostle Paul wrote the book of Galatians. There are two main theories of when he wrote it. The first is that Paul wrote this book after his second missionary journey and basically wrote it to churches in northern Galatia (churches not specifically listed in Scripture). The second and the one most Bible scholars believe is that the book of Galatians was written after Paul's first missionary journey (described in Acts 13:1-14:28). This would also mean it was written just before the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35). This places the date of writing around AD 48, probably from Paul and Barnabas's home church in Syria (Acts 14:26-28).

The book of Galatians can be divided into 3 sections:

1. Galatians 1:1-2:21 - Confirming the Truth of the Gospel
2. Galatians 3:1-4:31 - Defending the Superiority of the Gospel
3. Galatians 5:1-6:18 - Living the Freedom of the Gospel

We will divide these three sections into 13 subsections in this month's study.

**Basic Guidelines to studying Scripture:** Read the passage several times. We will initially focus on Observation, then Interpretation, and then Application.

1. **Observation (What do I see? / What are the facts?):** As you observe the passage it is good to look for important words and repetition. Look for things that are emphasized, things that are related, things that are alike, etc. This should be done prayerfully and in detail, before consulting with outside sources or commentaries. To emphasize the importance of observation in his seminary class on Biblical Interpretation, Dr. Howard Hendricks would start the semester with having everyone in the class make 25 observations on Acts 1:8.
2. **Interpretation (What does it mean?):** The more time spent in observation of what is in the text, the more accurate interpretation will be. Good extra-biblical resources can be very useful in this area. Some examples:
  - a. Atlas - A collection of maps showing places mentioned in the text and sometimes showing their history and significance can help with geographical questions.

- b. Biblical dictionary - Explains the origin, meaning, and use of key words and terms in the text. This helps with language barriers.
- c. Bible handbook – Present helpful information on subjects in the texts. This helps with cultural barriers.
- d. Commentary - Present a biblical scholar's study of the text. This helps overcome language, cultural, and literary barriers.
- e. Interlinear text – Translation with the Greek or Hebrew text positioned in between the lines for comparison. This also helps with barriers to the original language of the text.

3. **Application (How does it work in my life and the lives of others?):** The Bible has been around for several millennia, but it is absolutely applicable to our lives today!

Our study will follow this tried and true method of studying Scripture.

### **Section 1 (Day 1): People are Distorting the Gospel of Christ**

Read Galatians 1:1-10

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (Note: Three examples from the ESV Bible translation are below. Other translations might use different words with similar meaning.)

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| ○ apostle    | - | - |
| ○ astonished | - | - |
| - deserting  | . | - |

2. Write out three or more observations you have from these verses.

- A. Example: Paul was astonished that the Galatians were so quickly deserting the true gospel of the grace of Christ and turning to a different “gospel”. (verse 6)

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3. Interpretation Question:

- Why does Paul start his letter to the Galatian churches the way he does?

4. Application Question: What are some specific, measurable ways that you will apply these truths?

- Example: I will identify at least one way I distort the Gospel in my life (e.g., I act as if reading my Bible earns me additional favor with God). I will remind myself of the truth that nothing I do will make God love me more...or less!

## Section 2 (Day 2): Radical Transformation

Read Galatians 1:11-24

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 Examples below).
  - man's gospel
  - revelation
  -
2. Write out three or more observations you have from these verses.
  - Example: Paul makes the strong point that he received his revelation from God and that the gospel (the message) he taught was directly from God and not from man. (1:11-12)
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3. Interpretation Question:
  - Why does Paul make such a big deal about the fact that the message, the gospel he has shared with the Galatians, is one he received directly from God and not one that he received from man or developed himself?
4. Application Questions: What are some specific, measurable ways that you will apply these truths?
  - Examples:
    - Pray and ask God to give you eyes, mind, and heart to recognize a distortion of the true gospel (Jesus only; **not** Jesus + something else).
    - We are all radically transformed in some manner when we accept Jesus Christ. Write out a brief summary of each section of your testimony: (A) My life before Christ; (B) How I came to know Christ; (C) How my life has changed.
    - Is there someone in your life who glorifies God because of you? (v. 24) If not, pray God will utilize you to bring Him glory in another person's life.
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### **Section 3 (Day 3): A Gospel Worth Accepting and Affirming**

Read Galatians 2:1-10

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).
- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| ○ gospel      | - | - |
| ○ circumcised | - | - |
| ○             | - | - |

2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:

- Example: Paul returned to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus, after 14 years. (Galatians 2:1).

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3. Interpretation Questions:

- Paul states that “after 14 years I went up again to Jerusalem”. He is referring to 14 years from when? (2:1)
- What does Paul mean when he says “I went up ... in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain? (2:2)
- Re-read Galatians 2:4-5 and write what you interpret Paul is saying, in your own words.

4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?

- Examples:

- Paul states that false teachers are perverting the Gospel that Jesus Christ gave to us. In what ways do false teachers pervert the Gospel today?
- Pray God will give you the discernment to recognize false teachers today.

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#### **Section 4 (Day 4): Going Head-to-Head with Hypocrisy**

Read Galatians 2:11-21

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).

- I opposed him - -
- He stood condemned. - -
- hypocritically - -

2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:

- Example: Paul vehemently opposed the Apostle Peter face to face when Peter came to Antioch. (Galatians 2:11)

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3. Interpretation Questions:

- Why did Paul challenge Peter so strongly and so directly? (Galatians 2:11)

4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?
- Example: Re-read Galatians 2:21, then identify the actions in your life that “nullify the grace of God” (in another translation: “set aside the grace of God”).
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## Section 5 (Day 5): Backsliding into Legalism

Read Galatians 3:1-14

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).
  - Foolish Galatians - -
  - Blessings of Abraham - -
  - - -
2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:
  - Example: Paul asks the Galatian Church, “Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?”
  - 
  -
3. Interpretation Questions:
  - The Galatian Church heard the gospel message from Paul, his message was, repent of your sins, accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior, by faith and you will be sealed with the Holy Spirit. Paul was absolutely astounded that these Christians seemed to be accepting a false gospel from false teachers:
    - Why would these Galatian Christians be vulnerable to false teaching?
    - Are Christians today vulnerable to false teachings?
    - How do we prepare ourselves to stand for the truth of Scripture and know when it is being bent or distorted?
    - What does the apostle Paul mean when he says “Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”



4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?
- Example: Take time to sit down and pray and think about times that you have witnessed people add things to the gospel. Things that say, 'you are not just saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ; you are saved by Jesus PLUS something.' List some of these things that are added. This is often legalism (example; believe in Jesus and keep the 10 commandments and you will have eternal life). Salvation is the free gift of God; we cannot earn it; even though nearly every other religion says you must earn your way to heaven.
  - Identify 3 scriptures that say Salvation is the free gift of God.
  - Spend 5 minutes with your eyes closed and meditating on v. 13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..." Pray and thank Jesus for his willingness to become a curse for you.

## **Section 6 (Day 6): A Promise You Can Count On**

Read Galatians 3:15-22

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).
  - “Promise” (Paul uses the word “promise” 10 times in Galatians; all in Chapters 3&4. When studying Scripture, we should always be aware that if a word is used **multiple times**, the word is being **emphasized** for us.)
  - Offspring - -
  - - -
2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:
  - Example: Why was the law given? It was added to show people their sins; **but** the law was designed to last only until the coming of the offspring who was promised. (Galatians 3:19).
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3. Interpretation Questions:
  - Why is Paul’s statement in Galatians 3:15 important for the Galatians and for us to truly understand?
  - Galatians 3:17, says, “This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.” Interpret what this verse is saying in your own words.
4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?

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## **Section 7 (Day 7): From Law to Faith; Our New Status in Christ**

Please Read Galatians 3:23-4:11

- |            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| ○ Guardian | - | - |
| ○ Heirs    | - | - |
| ○          | - | - |

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- Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Interpret this verse in your own words. Again, in the interpretation area, after you read and re-read the Scripture and make sure you have viewed it in context, you may want to consult a commentary or other resource to assist you with the interpretation.
- Galatians 4:6, “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” What does “Abba” denote and why is this word for God, so disconcerting to other religions?

- Example: Because of God's saving work through Jesus Christ, 4:6-7 state we are sons of God and heirs through God. Think of three ways this truth should impact how you live on a consistent basis.

## **Section 8 (Day 8): Caring Enough to Tell the Truth**

**Read Galatians 4:12-20 -** In the first 3 chapters Paul's letter to the Galatians, he hotly debates the words and actions of false teachers, by using theological, historical, and biblical arguments. In chapter 4 Paul's tone starts to change. In Chuck Swindoll's Commentary on Galatians, he says, Paul moves from, "defending to exhorting, from challenging to complimenting, from refuting to remembering. Paul the vigorous apologist, becomes Paul the loving and caring pastor. He pleads with the Galatian believers, ... to return to the truth they had once embraced."

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).
  - I entreat you. - -
  - My little children. - -
  - - -
2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:
  - Example: The gentiles that became the Galatian church, took care of Paul when he first came to proclaim the gospel to them, even though he was physically sick. (Galatians 4:13-15).
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3. Interpretation Questions:
  - Re-read Galatians 4:15-16. How is Paul trying to appeal to the Galatians in these verses?
  - Interpret what Paul is saying in Galatians 4:19.
4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?
  - Examples:
    - Spend time in prayer, asking God to bring to mind people that you are want to witness to or are witnessing or building a relationship with. Ask God to guide you in how to build a stronger relationship with them. Write down at least 3 specific steps you will take and over what specific time frame you will take them.
    - Can you think of a time a Christian friend reminded you of a difficult truth and you didn't respond appropriately? If so, ask God to show you how to make this right...and follow through!

### **Section 9 (Day 9): To Those Who Want to Be Under the Law**

Please Read Galatians 4:21-31

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below).

2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:

- Example: Christ has truly set us free. Paul was telling the Galatian Church, and us today, of the need to make sure that we stay free and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law (works). (Galatians 5:1)

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### 3 Interpretation Questions:

- Galatians 5:2, says "I, Paul say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you." How would you interpret this to make it clear to someone today?
- Galatians 5:9, "A little leaven, leavens the whole lump." What point is Paul making to the Galatian Church and to Christians today?

### 4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?

- Examples:
  - It is very common to have people who profess to be Christians say that you can only be saved if you accept Christ PLUS\_\_\_\_\_. If someone comes up to you tomorrow and makes that statement, what would you say to graciously and in love, turn them to the true Gospel? Write out your statement.
  - The last part of 5:6 states "only faith working through love" counts for anything. Identify two acts of love through which you can live your faith this week. Set calendar reminders to help you follow through.

## **Section 11 (Day 11): Learning to Walk in Freedom**

Please Read Galatians 5:13-25

### 1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below)

- Love - -
- Neighbor - -
- - -

### 2 Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:

- Example: We are to use our freedom in Christ, not for worldly pursuits, but to serve one another and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Galatians 5:13-14)

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### 3. Interpretation Questions:

- Interpret Galatians 5:17, “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.” [Romans 6:17-18, and 1 Corinthians 10:13 may be helpful. The guideline that “Scripture interprets Scripture” is always helpful in interpretation.]
  - Interpret Galatians 5:24, “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Interpret this verse; feel free to get help from commentaries, other translations, etc. What does it mean for us today?
4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?
- Example: Carefully read Galatians 5:19-21. What deeds of the flesh seem to be giving you the most trouble; what are the idols that need identifying and dismantling in your life? Just pick one and give it a name; “My struggle with \_\_\_\_\_.” Now read Galatians 5:22-23. Which fruit or fruits of the Spirit would directly help you with this struggle?

## **Section 12 (Day 12): Living Together in the Spirit**

Please Read Galatians 5:26-6:10

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below)
 

○ Burdens	-	-
○ Law of Christ	-	-
○	-	-
2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:
  - Example: We should help to bear other people’s burdens. If we do this, we are obeying the commands of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:2-3)
  - 
  -
3. Interpretation Questions:
  - Write your interpretation of Galatians 6:1, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself lest you too be tempted.”  
One thing to consider is: Does the term “brothers” refer to non-Christians, Christians, or both? Another: Why does this verse specifically warn us to be careful we don’t fall into the same temptation?

- Write your Interpretation of Galatians 6:7-8, “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (Part of interpretation is to look at how the initial audience of the Scripture would understand what is being said. The Galatians were an agrarian society and everyone understood what it meant to sow and reap. We now live in a non-agrarian society, so some do not really understand these terms. This is one aspect of interpreting these verses).
4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?
- Example:
    - Spend a few minutes reflecting on 5:2 “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Identify a person in your life who is carrying heavy burdens, and (1) pray for him/her right now, and (2) reach out to him/her to ask how you might help with the burden.

### **Section 13 (Day 13): A Brief Reprise and a Blunt Reproof**

Please Read Galatians 6:11-18

1. What are the important words observed in this section? (2 examples below)
- |                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| ○ Boast        | - | - |
| ○ New Creation | - | - |
| ○              | - | - |
2. Write 3 or more observations you have from these verses:
- Example: It doesn’t matter what our works are. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. (Galatians 6:15)
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  -
3. Interpretation Questions:
- Interpret in your own words, what Galatians 6:13 is saying, “For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.”
  - **If you had to sum up the message of the entire book of Galatians in a few words, what would you say?**
4. Application Questions: What are some specific measurable ways you will apply these truths?

- As we look back at the Book of Galatians as a whole, there are some practical applications we can apply to ourselves:
  - a. No one is immune to temptation or drifting further from the true gospel. If it could happen to people in the first century, who were under the teaching of the apostles, it can certainly happen to us.
    - In which areas of your life are you knowing the peace of living by the Gospel?
    - In which areas are you forfeiting this peace by living for the world's approval?
    - Thank God for his grace where there is peace in your life and with God's help formulate a plan to attack the areas where you are living for the world's approval.
  - b. Galatians clearly tells us there are things worth fighting for. The wonderful news of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone is one of those foundation stones of the Christian faith. As the Apostle Paul says, a different gospel is not the gospel; it is heresy!  
Are there friends, relatives or other people God is putting in your life to whom you need to graciously but firmly defend the true gospel? If so, develop a plan to do it.

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