



Alpha-Omega Bible Study: The New Testament
Session 2: Acts, the Epistles, & the Apocalypse
Lesson 3: Confirming the Gospel Way

READ

- A. Review the list of theological themes and doctrines covered in Alpha-Omega.
- B. Choose one of the following two reading plans. For either, look for recurring themes and perhaps mark them in your Bible.
 1. Read Acts 13:1 – 16:6, and Galatians
 2. Read only the following:
 - Acts 15:1-31
 - Galatians 1:1-9
 - Galatians 2:11-21
 - Galatians 3:26 – 4:7
 - Galatians 5:16 – 6:10

REACT

- A. Use the space below to write down key observations or questions that arose as you read the text. Note here the themes or doctrines you found in the passages.

B. Questions:

1. a. Paul begins his letter to the Christians living in the region of Galatia with a harsh rebuke (1:6f.). How would you respond if a Christian leader or preacher you highly respect began a message to you like this?

b. Paul rebukes the Galatians for turning away from God and the gospel. In what ways, if any, do you see people today abandoning or perverting the gospel of Christ? What can you do in the coming weeks to be more faithful to Christ and his gospel?

2. a. In Galatians 2, Paul recounts some of his interactions with other early Christian leaders and apostles. In 2:11-21, Paul tells how his own authority as an apostle enabled him to confront Peter in his defense of the gospel. What disagreement did Paul have with Peter (cf. Acts 15)? What might have happened if Paul had not confronted Peter?

b. In what ways are Christians today (and perhaps yourself) guilty of having double standards?

3. a. Summarize Galatians 3:26-4:7 in your own words.

b. Based on this passage, how would you explain to a non-Christian what it takes to become a child of God?

c. What effect does being “in Christ” have on relationships among believers (3:28)?
What are barriers to unity among believers today that you can help to bring down?

4. According to Paul, what does it mean to be free in Christ (Gal. 5:1, 13)? In what ways have you seen Christian freedom abused? Although Christians are liberated from spiritual slavery, what kind of servants are we to be (5:13-15)?

5. a. In Galatians 5:16-26, Paul talks about what two things being in conflict with each other? How have you experienced this conflict in your own life?

b. What clues does Paul give for those seeking to “live by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16, 25)? What practical steps can you take to further grow the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

6. As sisters and brothers in Christ, what responsibilities does Paul say we have toward one another (Gal. 6:1-10)? To whom in “the family of believers” might God be calling you to do good as Paul described? How will you do this?

REMEMBER

Commit the following verse to memory:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Galatians 2:20 (TNIV)