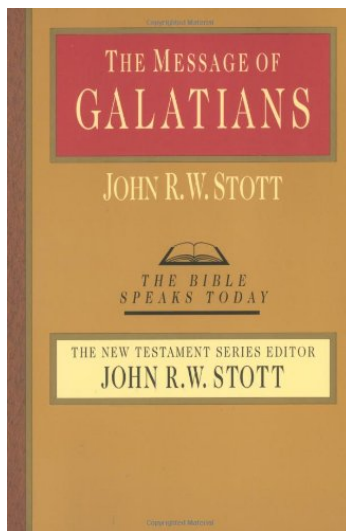


GALATIANS — No Other Gospel: Freedom in Christ

Date	Lesson	Passage	Section
September 7	1	1:1-5	The Priority of the Gospel (Summary)
September 14	2	1:6-12	
September 21	3	1:13-24	
September 28	4	2:1-10	
October 5	5	2:11-21	The Protection of the Gospel (Salvation)
October 12	6	3:1-14	
October 19	Combined ABF — Heritage Sunday		
October 26	7	3:15-29	
November 2	8	4:1-6	
November 9	9	4:7-20	
November 16	10	4:21-5:1	The Privileges of the Gospel (Sanctification)
November 23	11	5:1-15	
November 30	12	5:16-26	
December 7	13	6:1-10	
December 14	14	6:11-18	
December 21	15		

**This schedule and outline are subject to change.*

RESOURCE — *The Message of Galatians* by John Stott



This is one of the first volumes in the *Bible Speaks Today* series, and was originally published...in 1968. Unlike later volumes in the series, there is no introduction. Stott dives right in and begins his exposition of the text. Naturally, he covers the issues like authorship, dating, recipients, and themes along the way, but not in so much detail as a typical commentary might.

Paul is writing, he argues, to the churches in South Galatia to defend his **apostleship** and his **gospel**, both of which have come under attack from false teachers. Stott often points out that Paul still has many modern day opponents who deny his authority and reject his gospel message.

Each chapter of Galatians is dealt with in three or four chapters in the commentary. Stott sees Galatians as more or less falling into three main parts, which roughly correspond to two chapters each. The first (Gal 1,2) deals with a question of **authority**. Paul defends his authority based on his **apostleship**. Those who are familiar with Stott's writings will know how keen

he is to emphasise the uniqueness of the 12 apostles, and his denial of any kind of apostolic succession or modern day apostles, both of which he would view as challenging the apostolic authority of Scripture.

The second section (Gal 3,4) deals with a question of **salvation**. The gospel is presented as salvation through the death of Jesus Christ, and is received by faith alone. He sees the false teachers as proponents of salvation through keeping the law as a necessary 'supplement' to what Christ has done. He shows how the **law** of Moses ("thou shalt...") is contrasted to God's **promises** to Abraham ("I will..."), and therefore the **gospel** is analogous to the promise, not the law. He regularly quotes Luther in this section.

The significance of the law is to show us our need of the gospel. Stott argues that this step cannot be bypassed – we must let the law show us our sin, before we can understand what the gospel is. Come to Moses first, and let Moses lead us to Christ.

The third section (Gal 5,6) deals with a question of **holiness**. Up until now, Paul's message of Christian liberty may lead some to assume that anything goes in terms of behaviour. But liberty does not mean license. Stott argues that Christian freedom is primarily a freedom of **conscience** – we are not guilty before God. But freedom from law does not mean freedom from *keeping the law* – our sanctification involves us fulfilling the law, which Paul says is summed up in the command to love your neighbor (Gal 5:14). Similarly, we are called to fulfil the law of Christ (Gal 6:2).

Stott argues that the Christian has a conflict between what he is by nature (the flesh) and what he is by rebirth. In both Gal 5 and Rom 7 Paul presents walking by the Spirit as the solution to this conflict. We have nailed our flesh to the cross, but we need to keep it there until it dies. He describes holiness as a *harvest*. Paul speaks in Gal 6:8 about whether we sow to the flesh or to the Spirit. Holiness then is not automatic, but depends on where and how we sow.

Although the book has no introduction, a summary section at the end reiterates the main themes of the book and its key points for application. There is also a study guide at the end.

(Summary provided by <http://bit.ly/1sxlphw>.)

Notes:

- He blurs a distinction between Israel and the church at times.
- There is a helpful study guide at the end that may provide you with good discussion questions.

SERIES WEBSITE — singlefocusindy.org/galatians

- Teacher Notes
- Student Handouts
- Keynote
- PPT
- Graphics
- Daily Online Bible Study (singlefocusindy.org/daily-online-bible-study)

SUNDAYS

- Handouts will be pre-printed and in your classrooms.
- Projectors are in every classroom and are compatible with Apple/Windows. See Pastor Ben or Pastor Keith with questions about connecting.