



# LAW AND FAITH

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### Lesson 1

## SALVATION BY FAITH

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The book of Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul for the specific purpose of declaring that people are saved entirely by grace (God's loving favor) through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Further, he taught that salvation cannot be had by doing good works even the good work of keeping the law.

Before the Galatian people had first heard the glorious Gospel of Christ, they were idol worshipers. When Paul preached to them, they accepted the Gospel message with enthusiasm and turned to serve the true God of heaven.

However, after Paul left them, false teachers came among them. They declared that something more than faith in Christ is required to obtain salvation. These teachers insisted that it was also necessary to keep the laws (which God had given to Moses hundreds of years before the death of Christ), including the ritual of circumcision. Only by doing these things could anyone earn salvation, these false teachers said.

The Galatians were confused. Some began to follow what the false teachers taught. When Paul heard that news he

immediately wrote a letter to the Galatians. We shall be studying that letter in three parts:

**Chapters 1 and 2—Personal**  
**(Paul defends his authority as an apostle)**  
**Law and Faith**

**Chapters 3 and 4—Doctrinal**  
**Paul defends the Gospel**  
**Law and Grace**

**Chapters 5 and 6—Practical**  
**Paul applies the doctrine**  
**Law and Liberty**

The study of the Galatian letter is extremely important because there is much teaching that attempts to add something to the message of salvation which is by divine grace alone. Many feel that they must earn their salvation.

Before beginning to teach this volume, it would be helpful to review NT Volume #5 *Faith*.

**Scripture to be studied:** Galatians 1 and 2; Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-22

**The aim of the lesson:** To help pupils understand that salvation cannot be earned by keeping the law or doing good works. Salvation is God's free gift to the one who believes in His Son.

**What your students should know:** The Word of God makes it clear that we are saved through faith in the Lord Jesus alone.

**What your students should feel:** A desire to receive God's gift of salvation.

**What your students should do:** Put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as Saviour.

**Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):**

1. Paul, once an unbeliever, turned to Jesus and preached the Gospel.
2. The Galatian believers were confused by false teachers.
3. The darkness of our sin makes God's love shine more brightly.
4. Salvation is a free gift to all who will receive it.

**The verse to be memorized:**

*We have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law. (Galatians 2:16b)*

### THE LESSON

## 1. PAUL, ONCE AN UNBELIEVER, TURNED TO JESUS AND PREACHED THE GOSPEL

Today we shall begin to study another book in the wonderful Word of God, the letter to the Galatians. It was written by the Apostle Paul.

Paul had once been an unbeliever. Even then, however, he was a very religious man. He tried to keep the ritual of the law which God had given through Moses. As religious as he was, he refused to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He thought Jesus was a false prophet. So he would not place his trust in Him.