

# Walk By Faith, and You Won't Desert God

(Overview of Galatians)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

## ➤ Intro:

- **Gal. 1:1-9** Galatians, Paul writing because many had deserted God

- two lesson series overviewing Galatians – Sunday morning and evening

## ➤ What does it mean to desert God?

- **desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation**

- **illus.: desert a friend**, leave alone without any help

- **illus.: husband deserts family**, leaves wife alone to raise children, not help in any way (\$)

- **illus.: desert the army**, a military post, not fulfill obligation

- **illus.: desert**

- **Jer. 52:12-16** Jerusalem taken by Nebuchadnezzar, B.C. 588

- **the army fled** when Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem to destroy the city

- **many people in the city deserted**, giving themselves up to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians, and were taken into Babylonian captivity

- **as deserters, they abandoned their city, nation, fellow citizens**

➤ - **Acts 15:36-38** Paul didn't want to take John Mark on the 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey, because he had deserted them the 1<sup>st</sup> time

- **John Mark had turned away and gone back to Jerusalem** when they were in Perga, deserting them

- **John left, ran away, abandoned them**, left them to do the work without him

- **John didn't do his work**, left others to take up the slack, was not responsible as he should have been

- deserted his friends

- deserted his duty and obligation as an evangelist

- **if we desert God:**

- **we are no longer his friend**, because we have left Him (run away, abandoned God)

- **we have not fulfilled our duty and obligations**

- **we don't want to desert God, as many had done in Galatia**

- **so, we must learn** important lessons from the epistle Paul wrote to them

➤ **Don't desert God by following a different gospel**

- **Gal. 1:6** we desert (leave, abandon) **God if we follow a different gospel**
  - **illus.:** Muslim Koran, Oprah Winfrey's A New Earth doctrine
  
- - **Gal. 1:7** we desert (leave, abandon) **God if a doctrine is a distortion of Christ's gospel**
  - **illus.:** Galatia, Jewish false teachers (false brethren), must be circumcised and keep the Mosaic Law
  - **illus.:** Gnostics, mixed philosophy with doctrine of Christ to create different doctrine
  - **illus.:** Laodiceans, lukewarm, advocate okay if not fervent and zealous
  - **illus.:** denominations, denominational doctrine
  
- - **Gal. 1:8-9; 5:4** teachers are **accursed**; adherents are **severed from Christ and fallen from grace**
  - **world takes this lightly, God does not**
  - **illus.:** unity in diversity doctrine – not matter what church yo attend, all the same, going to same place
  - **illus.:** Israel, offered their children to Molech as burnt sacrifices
    - deserted God to serve a pagan god
    - they were **accursed, severed from fellowship with God, fallen from grace**
  
- - **1 Tim. 6:3-4a** anyone who advocates a different doctrine, not agree with sound words, is **conceited and understands nothing**
  - our view toward false teachers, and believers who advocate a different gospel
  
- - **2 Tim. 4:3** people who don't endure sound doctrine accumulate false teachers to tickle their ears, tell them what they want to hear
  - **illus.:** Rick Warren's, Purpose Driven Church, system of starting a church and growing it into a super-church, poll the community and give them what they want, everything from music to manner of dress to teaching – it's easy to grow a super-church based on tickling people's ears
  
- - **What is one of our most important jobs as Christians, working with a local congregation?** – everyone
  - **Eph. 4:11, 14, 15, 16** each person has a part in helping everyone else **remain faithful**, not following every wind of doctrine
  - **Heb. 12:15-17** see to it, no one comes **short of the grace of God, like Esau** who sold birthright for single meal, could not get it back
  
- **if we distort the gospel of Christ in any way, or adopt a different gospel:**
  - desert God, who gave His only begotten Son for our sins
  - desert Jesus, who died on the cross for us
  - sell our souls to the devil
  - we can't help anyone get to heaven

desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation  
1: don't desert God by following different gospel

- **Don't desert God by sinning to please other people** – put God before man
  - **Gal. 1:10 Paul was still persecuted because he didn't sin to please other men**
    - **choice:** teach the truth and be persecuted, or change and teach a false doctrine to please men
    - **if Paul changed to avoid persecution, he would desert God (vs. 6-9)**
  
- - **Gal. 2:11-14 Paul didn't sin to please Christians** – confronted other Christians when they were sinning
  - **Paul would not sin to make anyone happy**, not even another apostle
  - **he was not hypocritical**, treated everyone the same, didn't teach error to please anyone
  
- **Acts 5:17-42 illus.: apostles jailed for preaching, then brought before the Sanhedrin**
  - **apostles ordered to stop preaching, but refused to sin to please men**
  - **apostles scourged, left there rejoicing, continued preaching**
  
- **1 Cor 10:13 God is faithful, always provides a way of escape** – we never have to sin to please men
  - **the way of escape may include persecution, or even a whipping**, like the apostles suffered
  - **but we'll always be blessed by God when we stand for what is right, and not give into sin (Matt. 5:11-12)**
  
- **illus.: Boxer Rebellion in China**, an anti-Christian movement by the "Righteous Harmony Society" between 1898 and 1901
  - **the purpose of the movement** was to expel foreign influence from China, including Christianity (i.e., the effects of Christian missionary evangelism)
  - **it's called the Boxer Rebellion** (among other things), because trained fighters would persecute and kill individuals they deemed a threat
  - **during the rebellion, insurgents captured a mission station with 100 students** inside, blocked all the gates but one (revised from SermonIllustrations.com, taken from *Today in the Word*, February, 1989, p. 17)
    - **in front of that one gate was placed a cross**, flat on the ground
    - **students inside had to pass through** the gate
    - **if they trampled the cross underfoot** they were given their freedom and life
    - **anyone who refused to trample the cross were to be shot (executed)**
    - **the first 7 students** fearfully trampled the cross under their feet and were allowed to **go free**
    - **but the 8<sup>th</sup> student, a young girl, refused** to trample the cross
      - **she came out the gate, knelt and prayed, rose, and carefully walked around the cross**
      - **then she went to face the firing squad**
    - **strengthened by the girl's example, every one of the remaining 92 students** followed her around the cross and to the firing squad
  - **imagine** being in the girl's place, or one of the students behind her who heard their peers shot
  
- - **we shouldn't sin in order to please people**
  - **if we do, we desert God**
  - **Ja. 4:4b** whoever wishes to be a **friend of the world** makes himself an **enemy of God**

## End Part I

- **we'll desert God if** we follow a different gospel, or sin in order to please other people
- **inv.:** follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and faithfully serve God all your life – not desert Him

desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation  
1: don't desert God by following different gospel, or sinning to please other people

**SR=Gal. 1:6-10**

➤ **Part II**

- **Gal. 1:6-10 Galatians, Paul writing because many had deserted God**

- **two lesson series overviewing Galatians** – Sunday morning and evening

➤ - **review PP**

- **desert:** to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty or obligation

- **don't desert God by following false doctrines**

- if we do, we are severed from Christ, fallen from grace

- **don't desert God by sinning to please other people**

- we shouldn't sin at any cost, and certainly not to please other people, make them happy

- **in Part I we examined the don't(s), in Part II we examine the do(s)**

desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation  
1: don't desert God by following different gospel, or sinning to please other people

➤ **Walk by faith, and you won't desert God**

- **Gal. 3:6-7, 11** Abraham walked by faith; we must walk by faith as sons – inherit the promise
  - **Heb. 11:1** faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen
    - **illus.:** Abraham left family, offered Isaac – obeyed
  - **illus.:** heaven, salvation, promise
  
- - **Gal. 3:13-14, 16** we must be in Christ to walk by faith – inherit the promise
  - **Gen. 12:1-7** great nation, give descendants land (Canaan), all families of the earth shall be blessed
  - **Gal. 3:17-25** the Mosaic Law did not invalidate the promise, rather it was added because of transgression as a tutor to bring them to Christ
  
- - **Gal. 3:22** the promise is given to those who believe – by faith in Jesus Christ
  - **Heb. 11** without faith impossible to please God, chapter giving examples of faith
    - **illus.:** Noah, Abraham, Rahab
    - **Rom. 1:5; 16:26** obedience to the faith
  - since we must be in Christ to walk by faith, we must be in Christ to receive the promise
  
- - **Gal. 3:26-28** we are made sons of God through faith in Jesus when we are baptized into Christ
  - “into” (*eis*) preposition denoting movement and contact
    - **before baptized:** not in Christ, not a son of God, not an heir of the promise
    - **after baptized:** in Christ, a son of God, an heir of the promise
  
- - **Gal. 3:29** because we belong to Christ as Christians, we are descendants of Abraham and heirs according to the promise
  - **Gal. 3:16** Jesus is the “seed” through whom the promise is given to us
  
- - **Gal. 4:6** because we are sons of God, we have the Spirit of God in our hearts, crying Abba Father, and we're heirs of the promise
  - **Gal. 4:28** we are children of promise – receive promise in Christ
  - **Gal. 4:31** we are children of the free woman – freedom in Christ
  
- we will not desert God if we walk by faith, because we'll be His children through faith in Jesus
  - children of promise
  - heirs of the promise – join-heirs with Christ

desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation  
1: don't desert God by following different gospel, or sinning to please other people  
2: walk by faith so you don't desert God

- **Walk by the Spirit, and you won't desert God** – if walk by faith, walking by the Spirit
  - **Gal. 3:1-5** if we walk by faith, we walk by the Spirit – visa versa
  - **Gal. 3:2, 3, 5** first occurrences of “Spirit” - Paul ties Spirit to faith, and faith to Spirit
  - **Gal. 5:1f** Paul proceeds to not talk about walking by the Spirit
    - **Rom. 10:17** faith comes by the word of God
    - **when we obey the word of God, we are walking by the Spirit**
  
- - **in Christ, our faith is working through love; thus, we are walking by the Spirit** – Spirit vs. flesh
  - **Gal. 5:1** Christ sets us free (**Gal. 4**)
  - **Gal. 5:13** we do not turn our freedom into an opportunity for the flesh – sin
  - **Gal. 5:16-18** we walk by the Spirit, not flesh – walking by faith, word, led by Spirit
    - **led by Spirit is living the way the Spirit tells us in God's word** – walking by faith (**Rom. 10:17**)
  - **Gal. 5:19-21, 22-23** our manner of life shows whether we are walking by the flesh or Spirit
    - **deeds of flesh, vs. fruit of Spirit**
  - **Gal. 5:24-25** Christians, crucified flesh with passions and desires, live by Spirit, thus walk by Spirit
  
- - **Gal. 2:20** we've been crucified with Christ, Christ lives in us, **live by faith** in Jesus who died for us
- - **Gal. 6:14** world crucified to us
- - **Rom. 6:3, 6, 7** when baptized into Christ
  
- **because we walk by faith, we are led by the Spirit** (word)
  - **we have crucified the flesh when we were baptized into Christ, so we live and walk by the Spirit**

desert: to leave, run away from, abandon, thus unable to fulfill one's duty and obligation  
1: don't desert God by following different gospel, or sinning to please other people  
2: walk by faith so you don't desert God, walk by the Spirit

- **Fulfill the law of Christ, and you won't desert God**
  - walking by faith and by the Spirit, we fulfill the law of Christ
  
- - **Gal. 6:2** part of fulfilling the law of Christ is bearing one another's burdens
  - **Gal. 6:1** includes helping each other when we sin
  - **Gal. 6:6-10** includes doing good and sharing
  
- - **Gal. 6:18** when we do these things (walk by faith and Spirit, fulfill law of Christ), **the grace of Jesus Christ is with our spirits**
  - with the grace of Jesus Christ, we can do everything He sets forth, the way He desires it to be done

### Summary / Inv.

- we will desert God if we follow a different gospel, or sin to please other people
  
- we won't desert God if we walk by faith and the Spirit, fulfilling the law of Christ
  
- **Heb. 13:5** but the Lord will never desert us
  - He is always near by
  - wants everyone to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth
  
- **inv.:** obey the word of God – walk by faith, walk by the Spirit, fulfill the law of Christ