

Study Through the Bible

Galatians: The Essence of Being a Christian

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Click on the study title you'd like to see:

OVERVIEW OF GALATIANS

Study 1: LIVE UNDER GOD'S FULL BLESSING

Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide

Study 2: THE WAY TO SPIRITUAL VITALITY

Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide

Study 3: A VIBRANT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Leader's Guide — Participant's Guide



CHRISTIANITY TODAY
INTERNATIONAL

© 2005

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ©. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Visit www.ChristianBibleStudies.com
Visit www.PreachingTodaySermons.com

Study Through the Bible

Galatians: The Essence of Being a Christian - Study 3

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

A Vibrant Hope for the Future

Your inheritance exceeds your wildest dreams.

Do you have anything to look forward to? Does living in the kingdom of God after you die sound boring? Good News! Your inheritance exceeds your wildest dreams! When we unite with Christ, he qualifies us for the full rights of God's children.

This study describes the vast implications of being a son or daughter of God. In Christ, the heir of Abraham, we too become heirs of Abraham and inherit aspects of the promises given to Abraham. We transfer from the guardianship of the law of Moses to the law of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Best of all, we are heirs of God himself; we actually have the full inheritance rights of being God's child. God wants us to live not like slaves but like his children.

Scripture:

Galatians 3:26-4:7

Based on:

"The Essence," Series Builder by Craig Brian Larson, PREACHING TODAY SERMONS



INTERNATIONAL

© 2005

Visit www.ChristianBibleStudies.com
Visit www.PreachingTodaySermons.com

PART 1

Identify the Current Issue

The movie *Princess Diaries* tells the story of Amelia Thermopolis, an average, awkward teen whose estranged grandmother (Julie Andrews) comes to America to give Amelia the biggest news of her life.

Amelia visits her grandmother at her opulent mansion in San Francisco. A butler leads Amelia to the grand living room, where she stands amazed as several servants bustle about. Suddenly, all the servants stand at attention as Amelia's grandmother enters the room. The contrast between Amelia and her refined grandmother is painfully apparent. After some small talk, Amelia, feeling uncomfortable, asks her grandmother, "What is it you want to tell me?"

Her grandmother answers, "Something, I believe, that will have a very big impact on your life." They walk outside to talk, and her grandmother begins to explain. "Amelia, have you ever heard of Eduard Cristof Philip Gerard Renaldi?"

"No," Amelia responds. Her grandmother tells Amelia he was the crown prince of Genovia.

Amelia is as baffled as she is indifferent and shrugs her shoulders. "What about him?" she asks.

Her grandmother says, "Eduard Cristof Philip Gerard Renaldi was also your father."

Thinking her grandmother is only joking, she laughs, rolls her eyes in disbelief, and says, "If he was a prince, that would make me a—"

"Exactly," says her grandmother, "a princess. You see, you are not just Amelia Thermopolis. You are Amelia Mignonette Thermopolis Renaldi, the princess of Genovia."

Amelia can hardly speak as this new revelation sinks in. "Me...a...a...a princess?"

PART 2

Discover the Eternal Principles

Teaching point one: Christ qualifies you to inherit Abraham's promises.

Teaching point two: Christ redeems you from the guardianship of the law.

Teaching point three: Christ gives you the full rights of an heir of God the Father.



PART 3

Apply Your Findings

On September 2, 1945, the documents of surrender officially ending World War II were signed by the Japanese and designated representatives of allied nations. General Douglas MacArthur officiated the ceremony aboard the USS Missouri and was the last to sign on behalf of the United States.

MacArthur, flanked by his military colleagues, took his Parker fountain pen and simply signed his first name, "Douglas." He then passed the pen to General Wainwright, who signed "Mac." MacArthur then handed the pen to General Percival, who signed "Arthur." This unusual procedure was MacArthur's way of honoring the two United States generals who had suffered severe persecution as prisoners of war. They had persevered, and now they were allowed to share in the glory of victory.

In Romans 8:17 Paul describes the future of those who persevere in the spiritual battles we fight this side of heaven. He calls them joint-heirs. Those who share in the sufferings of Christ will also share in his glory.

(Illustration from PREACHINGTODAY.COM, submitted by Greg Asimakoupoulos, Naperville, Illinois.)

—Study by Craig Brian Larson, with JoHannah Reardon

