

TITLE: BIBS Lesson 2 – OBSERVATION – The “Birds-Eye View” of the Text

TEXT: Galatians 1-3

I. Galatians 1

A. *We call this the BIG IDEA BIBLE STUDY*

B. *Last week we covered a few key concepts*

1. That the BIBLE is a supernatural book
2. And that Paul told Timothy that the **Scriptures are the sole means by which we are to live godly lives.**

C. *It was progressively penned*

1. It's our job now to find out **what GOD SAID**
2. In order to find out **what He is still SAYING today.**
3. **We can only know what God is SAYING when we find out what He first SAID**

D. *He wasn't wasting His Words the first time He said them.*

1. They're as PROFITABLE today
2. As they were when they were first written,

E. *But we may not always UNDERSTAND why they were first written*

1. So WE may not always see them as profitable.

F. *You will never know, though,*

1. Unless you study.

II. That's what tonight is about.

A. *Looking first at the broad perspective*

III. Galatians

A. *Not going to do an in-depth exposition of the text*

B. *So AS we read*

1. We'll explain
2. And that will be the Bible portion
3. Much time in the BIBS teaching

C. **1:1-8**

1. If ANY other type of gospel is presented, it is damnable

D. **2:14-21**

1. An overview of the law reveals that we are unable to come to Christ by obeying it. Rather, it is by faith in Christ.

E. **3:10-12**

1. The LAW is given to curse us. FAITH is needed to save us.

F. *In a sense (for our purposes), Paul was arguing from the birds-eye perspective of the law.*

1. He was not giving in-depth arguments from any specific laws
2. He was not doing an exposition of any one text

3. He took the law as a whole to make a big point about our inability to please God fully through OUR actions, and that faith in Christ (without anything added) is the only true Gospel.

G. The point is, he started a BROAD view of a LOT of OT Scripture.

1. And that's what we will look at today, too.

H. PRAY

IV. I remember hearing a story relatively recently about a guy who strapped some weather balloons to his lawn chair

A. loaded up a BB gun

1. Took some snacks,
2. Inflated the weather balloons
3. Cut the ropes
4. And took off into space!

B. I thought it was a story from the past decade,

1. But apparently the one I'm thinking of was a copy cat
2. I looked up an article online

C. Good ol' Wikipedia helped me out

1. "Lawn Chair Balloon Guy"
2. Whole story
3. Made national news

4. Got a lot of attention

D. Larry Walters

1. Childhood dream of flying
2. Couldn't get into the US Air Force as a pilot
3. So he did the next best thing

E. Strapped on a parachute

1. Took off!
2. So foolish!
3. How scary!

F. Had some water ballasts to balance out

1. But he got too afraid to shoot the balloons
2. In case he'd lose his balance
3. And fall out!

G. So he thought he'd float about 30 feet off the ground right there in his back yard

1. 45 helium weather balloons attached!
2. He did a lot more than that!

H. He took off, man!

1. There goes Larry!
2. He had a radio

I. Eventually after 45 minutes of sailing

1. He'd shot a few balloons
2. And dropped his gun
3. So he's just drifting the through the sky

J. Has nothing to do with the point I'm making

1. Be the strings eventually got tangled in power lines
2. Causing a power outage for 20 mins
3. In Long Beach

K. He sailed into LAX controlled air space

1. Climbed down
2. Immediately arrested
3. Fined
4. End of the story is DON'T do that!

L. I just thought it was hilarious

1. Because all he grabbed was a couple snacks
2. BB Gun

M. He thought he'd just go for a leisurely little sail in the afternoon

1. Just in his back yard
2. Thought it would be a fun little time

N. Man... I can just imagine

1. As soon as they cut the anchor line that was holding him to earth
2. When he was thinking he'd gently rise up
3. He shoots up like a ride at 6 Flags!
4. Or like the Wiley Coyote being sprung in a trap!

O. That's so funny to me!

1. You know how we've done balloon releases here at the church
2. I can imagine that's about how it went for him

P. Cut the anchor

1. And before he knew it
2. He was WAY higher than he expected

V. I've seen a perspective video of one of those weather balloons

A. Someone attached a little GoPro camera

B. And their iPhone with GPS tracking turned on so they could locate it

C. And a little parachute that would pop out when the balloon burst

1. And it's SO interesting to see the perspective change

D. On land, as they're preparing the camera

1. You see all the little details

2. The guy who owns the camera
 - a) You can tell if he has facial hair or not
 - b) What color shirt he's wearing
 - c) Hear what he's saying
 - d) See that it looks like grass in his back yard
 - e) Not sure
3. But as soon as the balloon is released
 - a) It shoots up
4. Lose some details
5. But you see a bigger picture
 - a) First – see the guy's house
 - b) Green grass in back yard
 - c) Neighbors
 - d) Neighborhood
 - e) Nice housing tract
 - f) See his street
 - g) Other cars driving by
6. Things get smaller and smaller
 - a) As the scene grows wider and wider
 - b) See not just his neighborhood

- c) But the whole block
 - d) And then there's an open field that you never knew was there, beyond the neighborhood
7. And the higher it goes
- a) The bigger the city gets
8. Off in the distance
- a) You can get the lay of the land
 - b) The little streams and rivers
 - c) The small pools of water
9. You can hardly make out individual people or cars any more
- a) Because you're getting SO high
 - b) But you can still see where you launched
 - c) And get a general idea of the layout of the city
 - d) And the rural land surrounding the city
 - e) And how the water tower relates to the school
10. And still higher
- a) It's hard to even make out individual houses any more
 - b) But there are large buildings

c) Other landmarks like the mountain to the south

d) And the airport to the north

11. Still higher

a) There are fewer details

b) But we're still able to see a BIGGER picture

c) See the curvature of the earth

d) Above – outer space of getting

e) Blue, purple, and even black

12. Land below

a) Seeing more and more of the state

b) And even the surrounding states

E. Soaring as high as the birds

1. I love looking up and seeing the hawks circling SO high

2. You can hardly see them

3. I just imagine their view

F. You've done that in an airplane if you've flown and looked out the window

1. Flying over Las Vegas

2. Over the farmlands of the Great Plains

3. Over large cities like San Diego

4. Or OUR city

G. You see things from a whole different perspective

1. Details of a whole new view.

H. “Oh... I see now how this land is laid out”

1. For me, flying with Bro. Church

2. So THAT’S where Diamond Valley lake is

3. So THAT’S where lake skinner is

4. Wow... we’re THAT close to Oceanside?

5. There’s the 15 freeway!

6. Wow!

7. This TOTALLY MAKES SENSE now.

I. You’re seeing things from the eyes of LARRY.

1. Oh Larry.

J. I WAS calling it the birds-eye view

1. Now I guess I should call it the Larry’s-eye view!

K. I’d be scared!

1. I mean...

2. Our past intern Bro. Robert wouldn’t even go on Supreme Scream at Knott’s Berry Farm

3. Strapped in

4. Perfectly safe!

5. But he chickened out!

L. Imagine poor Larry!

1. No straps

2. Just a lawn chair and 45 weather balloons.

3. Sailing out of control

M. At least he got a good view!

1. He saw his country in a whole new way!

N. There ARE safer ways to get that perspective

1. Like our hot air balloon tours out here

O. But probably not near as exciting!

VI. When we are approaching Bible study, a fault of many people—like I mentioned MYSELF doing last week—was starting with a “ME FIRST” mentality.

A. As if everything in Scripture was written FIRST to me

1. But it wasn't.

B. The LAW wasn't written FIRST to me

C. Can I learn from it?!

1. Of course!

2. I'm SUPPOSED to learn from

a) Numbers

b) Leviticus

- c) Genesis
- d) Deuteronomy

3. ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God

- a) And is _____ ? (Profitable)
- b) I can and MUST find profit in ALL Scripture.

D. BUT... where cults get started

- 1. Where false doctrine creeps in
- 2. **Is when you FOCUS ON A DETAIL**

E. But forget about the BIG PICTURE

VII. You have to keep BOTH in view at the same time

A. There ARE some crazy LAWS

B. Which is what some of the false teachers were focusing on

- 1. Like in the time of Paul
- 2. When he wrote Galatians

C. There were JEWISH practices

- 1. From the law
- 2. That were being imposed on Christians

D. So, the book of Galatians

- 1. The first three chapters
- 2. Essentially a **birds-eye view** of the LAW.

3. Or, Larry's view of the law

E. While there might have been particulars

1. Foods that they were required to eat or not eat
2. Sacrifices they needed to make
3. Rules about circumcision

F. Paul's making the case

1. That Christ IS the fulfillment of the law

G. And we need a BROADER, more REVEALED view of it now

1. What was once a picture pointing AHEAD to Christ

a) Revealing our need for a Saviour

2. Is NOW in our PAST

a) And the picture is clear

H. It's like, "Oh!"

1. "I see now how that water tower is up on THAT HILL

2. "I drive by there ALL THE TIME

a) I live RIGHT by the road that leads to LAKE SKINNER

b) But I've never put it together

c) Until I saw the big picture.

VIII. We call the BIG PICTURE of Bible study – **Observation**.

- A. *It's the first step to Bible study*
- B. *It's the thing that keeps your perspective right*
 - 1. It's the starting point
- C. *BEFORE diving into the details of Scripture*
 - 1. "This guy has a bear"
 - 2. "This guy is wearing a red shirt"
 - 3. "This DOCTRINE of circumcision MUST be necessary for SALVATION"
 - 4. Or, "This COMMUNION WAFER must mean that I have to take this wafer or I'm not going to heaven..."
 - a) Uh oh
 - b) Wait a minute
- D. *Keep the ordinances in their bigger picture*
- E. *Keep Baptism in view of ALL of Scripture*
 - 1. Keep the FAMILY in view of Christianity
 - 2. Keep the CHURCH in view of God's KINGDOM plan
 - 3. Keep ISRAEL in view of prophecies that predate Christ!
- F. *Keep everything in sight of the big picture!*

IX. Many times you'll hear it referred to like this,

- A. *“Let’s look at this passage **in its context**.”*
1. Meaning: what’s the big picture here?
- X. **Observation** looks like a LOT of different things
- XI. **First**, we can look at the BOOK’S **GENRE**
- A. *We do that when we enter the library*
1. Enter the front doors
 2. Scan the signs hanging from the ceiling
 3. Sci-Fi nerds find their section
 4. Find their set of shelves
 5. Find their shelf
 6. Find their book’s series
 7. Find the next one in line
- B. *The black cover*
1. With the picture of lasers shooting
 2. And space ships flying all around
- C. *Give you a pretty good idea of what the book will be about*
1. Before you even open the book
- XII. So, too, with Scripture
- A. *The GENRE of a book*
1. Gives you an idea of the CONTENT itself

B. Is it history?

1. Narrative?
2. Is it an epistle – or a LETTER?
 - a) Note from a pastor to a church
 - b) Or an older pastor to a younger one
3. Is it a parable?
4. Is it prophecy?

C. Each genre triggers a different style of reading

1. You can't read the EMOTION of a PSALM OF LAMENT
 - a) Pouring his heart out to God
 - b) Wishing God's judgment on his enemies
2. The same way you read the 10 commandments
 - a) Cut and dry
 - b) Laid out clearly
 - c) LAW.
3. They're not the same
 - a) One is poetic
 - b) Intentionally emotional
 - c) Word pictures
4. One is commandment

- a) “Don’t Steal” means “Don’t steal.”
- b) There’s no word picture or poetic language there.

D. In the BACK of the BIBS book

- 1. Is a list of genres
- 2. And a deeper study on which book includes which genre
- 3. And how to study that genre
- 4. And some of the specifics of that genre
 - a) Further study needed

XIII. Back to our library

A. Pull a book off the shelf

B. Look at the dust cover

C. Inside flap

- 1. Picture of the **author**
- 2. And a little bio

D. Gets a snapshot of his or her life

- 1. And you have a slightly different expectation of what the book will be about

E. I mean... maybe a sweet little grandma lady might write some blood and gore horror story

- 1. I don’t know!

2. But that's not typically what you'd expect
3. And reading a snapshot of the author gives you an insight into the book

F. *So too with Scripture*

1. The writer of each text will have his own perspective that will make that text unique

XIV. How about some basic **background** info you could look for in your OBSERVATION phase?

A. *Dates*

1. OT or NT
2. What's happening in history – Daniel, Ancient Egypt, etc.

B. *Occasion of writing*

1. Where's Israel?
2. What's the problem?
3. What's the history

C. *Culture*

1. What's popular at the time
2. What style of writing
3. What do archaeologists tell us now?

D. *Theme*

1. Others have studied this book

2. What do THEY say are some major themes to watch out for?

XV. Fill in the blanks on the OUTLINE:

A. *The first step in doing so is through O_____ (Observation) or the _____'s (bird) -eye view. Some examples are:*

B. G_____ (genre)

C. A_____ (author)

D. B_____ (background)

1. Dates
2. Occasion of writing
3. Culture
4. Themes

E. *Specialty dental tools can come later. Dentists recommend that you start with your "toothbrush:"*

1. (Study Bibles) _____ (i.e. Thompson or Scofield)
2. (Concordances) _____ (i.e. Strong's Exhaustive)
3. (Online) _____ (Bibles) _____ (i.e. classic.net.bible.org KJV)
4. (Bible) _____ (Software) _____ (i.e. E-Sword or Olive Tree)

5. (Books) _____ (i.e. *King James Bible Commentary* or *World's Bible Handbook*)

6. (Your Pastor) _____

F. *Warning: Use man's wisdom sparingly*

XVI. Overall, be careful about launching into "your own" Bible study

A. *Be leery of anyone who claims to have a new thing*

B. *It's probably a lie.*

XVII. Example: Psalm 47.

A. *Did you know someone counted 47 words in, and it's the word "Shake"*

B. *And someone counted 47 words from the end, backwards*

C. *It's the word, "Spear."*

D. *Psalm 47. Forty-seven words from the front, then from the back*

1. Shake spear

2. Shakespeare is in the Bible!!

E. *Wait a minute...*

1. Do you really think God is trying to HIDE His Word from us

2. In secret codes?

F. *Granted, there are a few little tricky spots in there*

1. But most of it is just plain ol' principles

G. Find out what God said and you will find out what He is saying still today.