

# **SENIOR SIX SELF STUDY WORK**

## **DEV 2**

### **DAY 1**

#### **PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS**

##### **AUTHORSHIP/DATE AND DESTINATION OF THE LETTER**

Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians during his second or third missionary journey this was between the period 53-55AD. Paul's main audience was the Galatians or the people of Galatia.

##### **JUSTIFY THE NEED/PURPOSE/AIM/CAUSE FOR PAUL'S WRITING THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS.**

- The letter was written as a reaction to a serious crisis which had come up in the church of Galatia shortly after Paul had left Galatia.
- Paul wanted to defend the gospel of faith that he had preached before to the Galatians this was because the judaisers had claimed that Paul was preaching a gospel which lacked the necessity of the Jew law and circumcision.
- Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians to defend his apostleship. Many people doubted Paul's right to be a true apostle of Jesus for they claimed he was a self-made apostle. He wanted to teach about the importance of change where he said it is faith in Jesus Christ that puts a person right with God instead of following the law as the judaisers had claimed.

Paul wanted to teach the Galatians that circumcision was not a necessary condition for one to become a Christian because it was just a physical mark to identify them as Jews.

- By writing the letter Paul wanted to bring back the Galatians to the true gospel of faith that he had preached to them before this was because the judaisers had managed to convince a large number of Galatians with their false gospel.
- Paul wanted to encourage the Galatians to carry one another's burden during times of trouble. That is to say, helping the needy.
- The letter was written to show that in Jesus Christ all people are equal regardless of sex, race, status or background hence reconciling the Jews and Gentiles.
- Paul wanted to encourage the spiritual Christians to always guide and protect fellow Christians who were caught in wrong doing however they were to do it gently.
- Paul wanted to teach the Galatians to always love one another as Christian brothers and sisters.
- He wanted to encourage them to live as people controlled by the spirit so as to promote peace, joy, kindness and faithful to one another.
- Paul wanted to teach the Galatians that God's salvation plan was universal for those who had faith in him.

That is to say, not necessary follow the Jewish law of circumcision.

- He wanted to reveal his image which had been destroyed by the judaisers who called him a liar, persecutor and self-made apostle.

## **WHY DID THE GALATIANS DOUBT PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP**

The following are the reasons that led the Galatians to doubt the apostleship of Paul:

- The judaisers claimed that Paul was not a true apostle of Jesus and so was a self-claimed apostle.
- Paul was accused that he was not one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ which was indeed true although Christ had appeared to him and was given the power to preach the gospel.
- Paul's apostleship was doubted because he had been a persecutor of the church so how could he turn around to preach a gospel he had tried to destroy.
- The Galatians claimed that Paul's gospel was of a human origin that is to say he had copied it from the major Jerusalem apostles and therefore there was no need to take him seriously.
- They claimed that the gospel of Paul was incomplete/half baked. This was because it lacked the necessity of the law and circumcision.

They accused Paul of trying to win man's approval/favour and that is why he was trying to leave out the law and circumcision so as to win cheap popularity.

They claimed that Paul himself was a Pharisee that is a strict follower of the Jewish law and then wondered why he was trying to teach the Gentiles not to follow the law and circumcision which he followed himself.

- The Galatians also doubted Paul's apostleship and his gospel reason being he was not even an eyewitness of Jesus according to their understanding. However, Jesus had appeared to him on his way to Damascus as noted in the book of the Acts of the apostles (Acts 9:1ff)
- Galatians claimed Paul was a hypocrite. That is to say, Paul himself was circumcised and even allowed Timothy and Titus to be circumcised so who then could he not preach the same gospel.
- The doubt of Paul's apostleship and the gospel came because he was preaching a different gospel from that which the Jerusalem apostles were preaching.
- The Galatians claimed that if Paul was an apostle then he was a minor apostle who was not to be taken seriously.
- The judaisers conflicted with Paul because he taught that the Christians were freed from the Mosaic Law which annoyed them as teachers of the law.
- Paul taught that one is justified by faith instead of the works of the law which was contrary to what the judaisers taught the Galatians hence leading to the conflict.
- Paul's apostleship and the gospel he preached was questioned by the Galatians because he stressed the equality of all people regardless of sex race and background though the Jews took themselves as a superior race.

## **PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL AND HIS APOSTLESHIP (Gal 1:6)**

- 1. Analyse Paul's response to the allegations made by judaisers in his letter to the Galatians.**
  - 2. What arguments did Paul use in his letter to the Galatians in defense of his gospel and apostleship?**
- Paul said his call to be an apostle did not come from man but from Jesus Christ himself and his gospel was a gospel of free grace.
  - Paul said there was no any other gospel apart from the gospel of faith he had preached and was the same gospel preached by the Jerusalem apostles.

- He urges that he had received the gospel on the way to Damascus when he had gone to persecute Jesus and his followers.

To confirm defence of Paul's apostolic authority he stressed that he did not see the use of seeking advice from human leaders (Gal 1:18). He clarifies that immediately after his conversion experience he did not go to Jerusalem to seek authority from apostles like Peter and James.

Paul warned that anyone who preached a different gospel from that he preached he was to be condemned to death even of angels.

- He defended himself by saying his gospel was after winning the approval of God instead of winning man's approval.
- Paul defended his gospel and his apostleship by saying that the gospel he taught was revealed to him by the risen Christ.
- He defended himself by trying to remind the Galatians about his past experience as a persecutor and how he had destroyed the church of God but he was converted by Christ on his way to Damascus.
- Paul defended his gospel by narrating the Galatians how he had been a devoted follower of the Jewish laws and the traditions of the ancestors but all this did not put him right with God.
- Paul further said in defence of his gospel that God chose him to be an apostle before he was born.
- Paul defended his gospel by stressing the task to preach the gospel to the Gentiles just as Peter was given task to preach the gospel to the Jews.
- He defended himself by saying after his conversion experience at Damascus; he left for Arabia and then returned to Damascus, it was after 3 years that he went to Jerusalem to obtain information from Peter.
- In his letter to the Galatians Paul responded to the allegation made by judaizers that he wanted a true apostle by showing them that while in Jerusalem he stayed there for two weeks which was a very short time to acquaint with the gospel preached by Peter and James the Lord's brother.
- He also stressed as a true apostle he went to Jerusalem fourteen years later after his conversion together with Barnabus and Titus to meet the Jerusalem apostles and explain to them the gospel he was preaching to the Gentiles.
- Paul defended his gospel and apostleship by saying the major Jerusalem apostles recognized and acknowledged the fact that Paul had done a great duty to preach the word of God to the Gentiles.
- Paul said he even received a hand shake from the Jerusalem apostles as a sign of approval and that they were working as partners.
- Paul said that what he wrote was the complete truth of the gospel and even God knew that he was not lying.
  - Paul defended himself as a true apostle by rebuking Peter at Antioch (Gal 2:11-14) when Peter had discriminated against the Gentile Christians by withdrawing from eating a meal with them.
  - Paul defended his gospel by preaching that a person is put right with God by only his faith in Jesus Christ instead of the law and circumcision.

## **COMMENT ON THE RELEVANCE OF PAUL'S DEFENCE OF THE GOSPEL AND APOSTLESHIP IN THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS TO CHRISTIANS TODAY**

- Christians should accept the call of God regardless of their background, race, sex just as Paul accepted the call of God to preach the gospel to the Galatians.
- Christians are called upon to preach the gospel to all categories of people beyond their home localities just like Paul preached even to the Gentiles whereas for him he was a Pharisee.
- Christians today should always be eager to help the needy people in society like Paul tried to help the Galatians who did not know the word of God.
- Christian leaders are called upon to confess their sins emulating Paul who was once a persecutor of Christ's followers but at once came up and confessed to the people.
- Christians should defend courageously the gospel of Christ if they know they are delivering the right message taking the example of Paul who defended his gospel before the judaisers who were watering down his gospel.
- Modern Christians should have total faith in God as a means to be put right with him.
- Christians learn from Paul's teaching to have complete change of life like Paul was a persecutor of Christ's believers but eventually changed completely to a preacher of the word of God.
- Christians should leave judgment of church leaders to God because God does not judge from outside appearance but from one's inner purity or impurity.
- Religious leaders should preach one gospel about Jesus Christ of preaching a different gospel that may cause conflict among themselves.
- Church leaders should work for the approval of God instead of winning the approval of men which the judaisers claimed Paul was seeking for.
- Church leaders and Christians are called upon to work as partners in the preaching of the gospel unlike in the case of Paul who conflicted with judaisers preaching a different gospel from his gospel.
- Christians ought to treat each other equally regardless of sex and race as Paul behaved.
- Christians should correct and guide fellow Christians who go wrong following the example of Paul who corrected/rebuked Peter at Antioch because of Peter's segregative nature.

### **ACTIVITY 1**

1. Justify the need for Paul's writing the letter to the Galatians
2. How did Paul defend the gospel and his authority as an apostle in the letter to Galatians?
3. What circumstances led the Galatians to question the apostleship of Paul and the gospel he preached?

### **DAY 2**

## **CAUSES/AREAS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIANS TODAY**

The following are some of the areas in which the sheep (Christians) may conflict with the chief shepherd (church leaders)

Conflict between the church leaders and Christians may arise due to mismanagement of church funds. Many believers have come up to oppose their leaders in church for mobilizing fund raising to renovate the church but end up using money for personal gains like buying luxurious cars.

Conflicts may arise over unfair promotions within the church. Some strong ushers have left some churches and formed theirs because the church leaders do not promote them fairly.

- Difference in political ideologies has contributed more conflicts in the church. Some Christians may support NRM or others FDC or DP during presidential and parliamentary elections leading to division among believers and their leaders.
- Some religious leaders may be opposed because they involve in politics directly which may create a misunderstanding with the followers from the opposite side.
- Conflicts may arise due to wrong preachings in the church like the protestant church condemned Bishop Ssenyonjo for supporting homosexuals when he was in America.
- Opposition to church leaders may arise over the background of the preacher if one was a thief or a witch doctor, the Christians would certainly oppose such a leader.
- Conflicts may arise due to tribal or racial difference or preaching in a language uncommon to the people in the area.
- Church leaders would face opposition from the Christians when they involve in immoral activities like sexual immorality in form of adultery or defilement. Fornication. This was partly the case with Pastor Muwanguzi who had a church in Namulanda and the Mengo.
- Christians today may conflict with their leaders due to the different methods/approach to the teaching of family planning. Some encourage their followers to use birth control means like pill plans and condoms which many followers say it is un Godly.
- Conflicts may arise due to poor education and home background. Some educated people tend to oppose the preaching of some pastors who are not educated and base their teaching on a few lines in the bible.
- Some conflicts may arise due to the marriage status of some church leaders. Many church leaders are not married but preach the gospel of marriage as an easy institution as if they have wives at home.
- Some people conflict with church leaders just out of envy that is jealousy, dislikeness based on colour, height ascent.
- Some Christians today conflict with their leaders because some people naturally do not want to be under any kind of authority.
- Some conflicts arise in the church between Christians and church leaders as a result of the church leader over staying in the same church but not making any development in the church.
- Some churches leaders are opposed because of giving false prophesy to the people. For example, Pastor Robert Kayanja of Rubaga Miracle Centre was hated by many Christians when he prophesied in 2001 that

one of the presidential candidates was to die during the campaign. Unfortunately, even up to now 2017 none of those who contested has died.

- Some church leaders are opposed because they are conservative in nature. That is to say, they don't want to change even if money is available. That is to say, putting new buildings.

**“FOR I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOWN, BRETHREN THAT THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS PREACHED BY ME ISN'T OF HUMAN ORIGIN” (GAL 1:11) JUSTIFY PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP.**

- Paul quotes his experience of conversion in Acts 9 to prove his encounter with the risen Jesus.
  - Paul had been a fanatical follower of the Jewish law and traditions of the ancestors. He had to defend his apostleship.
  - He had even persecuted and destroyed the followers of Jesus without mercy which made it difficult to be called an apostle even after his conversion.
  - Paul defends his apostleship and the gospel he preached because the judaisers had doubted him as a true apostle of Jesus Christ.
  - Paul defends his apostleship because the judaisers had claimed that Paul was preaching a false gospel which he had to defend by saying that it came from Jesus himself.
  - Paul defended his apostleship because the judaisers had accused him of preaching an incomplete gospel.
  - The judaisers had accused Paul of not being among the 12 disciples of Jesus so for this reason Paul decided to come up and defend his apostleship.
  - Paul defended his apostleship among the brethrens of Galatia because the judaisers were preaching against him saying he was trying to win man's approval (cheap popularity) instead of God's approval.
  - Paul defended his apostleship because the judaisers had claimed that was not an eye witness of Jesus Christ but a second hand apostle so what he was preaching was not original from Christ.
  - The judaisers had claimed that Paul was a Pharisee but what he preached was against their culture so they watered down his gospel which he came up to defend.
  - Paul defended his apostleship among the brethrens of Galatia because the judaisers had accused him of centering his gospel.
  - Paul defended his gospel because he was accused by the judaisers of preaching the gospel which was different from that the Jerusalem apostles were preaching.
  - The judaisers had accused Paul that his gospel lacked the core of the gospel message. That is to say, the law and circumcision. But said faith was more important to the Gentiles than following the Jewish law and circumcision.
  - Paul wanted to show that his call to be an apostle was initiated by God not any human being that is why he said he preached a gospel not of human origin but from Christ.
- Paul defended the gospel he preached because he wanted to stress that his gospel was not different from the one preached by the Jerusalem apostles. He even said he met them in the Jerusalem council and they agreed with him the gospel he preached.

He wanted to show that his apostolic work was even acknowledged by the major Jerusalem apostles like Peter and James.

- Paul wanted to show that he was equal to the other apostles whom they had regarded as major because he was also called by Christ to serve.

### **ASSESS THE OFFICE OF APOSTLESHIP IN UGANDA TODAY**

Largely the following are the positive laws of the modern apostles;

- Some people go for training in order to become apostles. For example, the young ones who go in seminars for priestly training, the young girls who go to the converts training as nuns and others go to theological colleges (bible schools) like at African Bible University.
- Most of the apostles are males with a few female apostles which implies that women need to put in more effort to gain apostleship.
- Some apostles are celibates mostly priests because of the need to serve God better with limited family obligations.
- Some apostles take it as a vocation (calling) to serve God.
- Most apostles live exemplary life like that of Jesus Christ in order to attract more followers.
- Some apostles do their role willingly even without minding about failing because they need to serve mankind and God.
- Some apostles carryout charity work. For example, building orphanages, helping the needy.
- Some apostles carryout missionary journeys as a way of preaching the gospel for example Sudan.
- Some apostles baptize new converts to Christianity.
- Some apostles have endured persecution and suffering in their work like being accused by some people who dislike their gospel.
- Some apostles carryout catechism classes to the young ones hence promoting the word of God right from childhood.
- They encourage Christians to like exemplary lives that are morally upright.
- They call upon people for repentance such that at the Parousia Jesus finds everybody prepared.
- Some apostles have encouraged Christians to get tidy matrimony so as to control sexual immorality.

### **However, to a smaller extent the modern apostles have played the following negative roles;**

Some apostles are false preachers. For example, Joseph Kibwetere in Kanungu murdered a number of people at his church whom he converted that the world would come to an end in 2000.

- Some apostles are self-imposed on Christians. For example, pastor Kiwedde Muwanguzi.
- Some apostles are living immoral lives. That is to say, they have been identified practicing or supporting sexual immorality.
- Some apostles are performing miracles with use of evil powers. For example, pastor Kakande.
- Some apostles are acting negatively by commercializing the gospel. That is to say, they are money minded than real spreading of the word of God. For example, pastor Namutebi who puts divisions in church and does not allow coins in her church.

- Some apostles have fuelled divisions and conflicts within the church partly due to power struggle.
- Some apostles preach a false gospel or misinterpret the gospel for example pastor Yiga a.k.a ‘Mbizaayo’ of Kawala
- Some apostles have created personal cults in churches. For example, Nabbi Bushala.
- Some apostles are corrupt they misused church funds by developing their personal desires like being luxurious cars pastor Namutebi.
- Some apostles fail to endure persecution and martyrdom because of fear of death.
- Some apostles have sided with government leaders to support government policies which may even be against the will of the majority which creates divisionism in church. For example, pastor Kayanja openly supports the ruling party, national resistance movement organization.

## **THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PAUL AND PETER AT ANTIOCH (Gal 2:11-14)**

### **1. Comment on the disagreement between Paul and Peter at Antioch.**

- Paul had visited Antioch which was basically a Gentile place.
- While in Antioch Peter had exercised his freedom and so eat freely with the uncircumcised Gentile Christians.
- By eating with the Gentiles Peter had indicated that both Jesus and gentiles were equal in union with Jesus so circumcision was not a big matter to follow now.
- But when the circumcised group/judaizers arrived from Jerusalem they began preaching that Gentiles needed to observe the Jewish law and accept to be circumcised in order to be called real Christians.

Due to the new preaching of judaizers in favour of the law and circumcision, Peter felt embarrassed before the uncircumcised Gentile Christians.

- As a result, Peter withdrew from eating with the uncircumcised Gentile Christians which attracted other Jewish Christians like Barnabus to also withdraw.
- Peter’s withdrawal from eating with uncircumcised Gentile Christians was a sign of cowardice and insincerity.
- Paul was not happy with the action of Peter’s withdraw so he rebuked him for his double standard.
- To Paul this was also a sign of undermining the growth of the church.
- Paul said if Peter as a Jew could not apply the law and circumcision in order to be saved, then how could he expect Gentile Christians to comply with the law.
- Indeed, Peter’s action of withdrawing from eating with the Gentiles had given a bad example to the rest of the Christians in Antioch.
- Peter’s action according to Paul was not demonstrating him as a true apostle of the church and a leader.

It’s like he was trying to uphold Judaism.

- Peter’s action was bound to hinder reconciliation efforts between the Jews and gentiles.
- Peter’s behaviour undermined the gospel that Paul was preaching to the Gentiles.



## **ACTIVITY 2**

1. Identify and discuss areas in which modern preachers would face opposition from the Christians.
2. Give an account of the conflict between Paul and Peter at Antioch.

## **DAY 3**

### **ACCOUNT FOR PAUL'S REFERENCE TO THIS DISAGREEMENT IN HIS LETTER TO THE GALATIANS**

- Paul referred this conflict in his letter to the Galatians because the Galatians were being confused by the judaisers.
  - Paul wanted to highlight towards Galatians the difficulties involved in a bidding to the mosaic/Jewish law.
  - He wanted to show that no one can fulfil every requirement of the Mosaic Law.
  - Paul wanted also to show the Galatians that if one did not fulfil the requirements of the law then he was under a curse of God.
  - Paul wanted to show the Galatians to realize that Christianity is a religion of equality regardless of sex, status, race and background.
  - He wanted to show the Galatians that by following the law it was risky and would make the slaves of the law instead of being free in Jesus Christ.
  - He wanted to prove to the Gentiles that the judaisers were wrong to force the Gentiles to circumcision.
  - Paul wanted to defend his apostleship to them (Gentiles) since he had rebuked Peter the major apostle openly.
  - Paul wanted to use his experience of how he had followed the law but it only turned him into a persecutor of the church.
- Paul also wanted to teach the Galatians that if the law could put a person right with God then Jesus Christ died for nothing.

## **WHAT MAKES ONE A CHRISTIAN**

### **Examine Paul's teaching on justification by faith in his letter to the Galatians.**

- ✓ The judaisers were insisting that the law and circumcision were important in making one righteous because they were divinely inspired by God hence all Christians whether Jew or Gentiles had to obey it.
- ✓ However, Paul insisted that both Jews and Gentiles were saved by faith in Jesus Christ and so were put right with God through Jesus and not obeying the law.
- ✓ Paul even uses his experience of how he had tried to follow the Jewish law but it did not put him right with God other than turning him into a persecutor.
- ✓ Paul says it was only God's direct and loving intervention through Jesus Christ that he became a new creature and his old nature completely died so as to a Christ like character.
- ✓ Paul emphasized that if a person can be put right with God through the law, then it means that Christ died for nothing.

- ✓ He said that himself and Peter had found salvation in Jesus Christ not because of following the Jewish law and so they were not different from the Gentiles who were also finding salvation in Jesus Christ without following the law.
  - ✓ To defend himself that a person is justified by faith not by the law. Paul said God had worked miracles among them because they had believed in the gospel and not because they had followed the law and circumcision.
  - ✓ Paul says he received the spirit of God as a result of hearing and believing in the gospel not because they had followed the law and circumcision.
  - ✓ Paul abused the Galatians by calling them foolish because they had heard a clear description of the death and resurrection of Jesus but now they were turning to the teaching of judaizers.
  - ✓ Paul says it is through faith in Jesus Christ that one can become a Christian and reconciliation is possible to mankind.
  - ✓ Paul said the time for faith had come in his teaching and the error of the law had come to an end.
  - ✓ To emphasize more than one is made a Christian by faith he used the example of Abraham who believed in God and because of his faith God accepted him as a righteous yet he lived before the error of the law.
  - ✓ Paul said the law was a curse for mankind but Jesus Christ had to die on the cross to save mankind from the curse of the law.
  - ✓ Paul stressed that those who depend on the law live under God's curse because whoever does not obey every requirement of the law is under the curse of God.
- Paul taught that only a person who is put right with God through faith shall live and the law had nothing to do with his faith.
- He also stressed that the law came 430 years after the covenant of faith that God had made with Abraham. So the law could not break and cancel the promises that God had made to Abraham.
- ✓ He used the example of Hagar to symbolize the idea of the law and the Jewish nations under slavery. Hagar's son Ishmael could not become the heir to Abraham because he was born under slavery.
  - ✓ Paul also uses the example of Sarah to symbolize the idea of faith and heavenly Jerusalem set free from the demands of the Jewish law. Her son Isaac became Abraham's heir because he was born as a result of God's promises.

## **REASONS WHY PAUL REBUKED PETER AT ANTIOCH**

### **Justify Paul's criticism against the behaviour of Peter at Antioch.**

- ✓ It was because Peter's action of stopping to have the meal with Gentiles seemed to win man's approval instead of God's approval. That is to say, to Paul, Peter wanted to win cheap popularity from the other Jews.

- ✓ Paul rebuked Peter's action because he saw that it could hinder the unity of the church. That is to say, the unity between Jews and Gentiles.
- ✓ The action of Peter discriminating the Gentiles was contradicting with the decision that had been agreed upon in the Jerusalem council meeting whereby apostles agreed that it was faith in Jesus Christ that put a person right with God not following the law.
- ✓ Paul rebuked Peter because Peter's action was a bad example to other Christians. That is to say, it could mislead other Christians like Barnabus who also withdrew from the meal.
- ✓ It was because Peter's actions contradicted with the gospel that he was originally preaching which made Paul attack him. Peter was preaching a gospel of faith yet he behaved as if the law and circumcision were still guiding him.
- ✓ Paul rebuked Peter because the action was discriminating against the Gentile Christians hence going against the law of love for one another.
- ✓ Paul rebuked Peter because he wanted to defend the true gospel of faith yet the action of Peter seemed to be in favour of the law and circumcision.
- ✓ It was because Paul wanted to show that he was a true apostle of Jesus Christ that is why he had rebuked Peter moreover the head of the apostles.
- ✓ To Paul Peter's action showed him as a true hypocrite. That is to say, a man of double standards or a man of no clear stand.

Paul rebuked Peter because his action was putting the gospel of faith that Paul had preached to the Gentiles at stake.

Paul was concerned because Peter's action was abusing the real meaning of the Lord's Supper which was intended to unite all Christians as a way of remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- ✓ Peter's action could hinder the expansion of the church as many Gentiles could get discouraged from joining the church that Paul had formed.
- ✓ Paul rebuked Peter because Peter's action showed the he had failed to emulate of associating with all classes of people (Jews and Gentiles).
- ✓ Rebuking Peter at Antioch was to show that Peter was discriminative which could mean that the death of Jesus on the cross was for nothing.
- ✓ Peter's action of discrimination was opposed by Paul because it meant that Peter was still being enslaved by the law like other Jews.

## **PAUL'S TEACHING ON FAITH**

### **1. Examine the teaching of Paul on faith in his letter to Galatians.**

Paul taught the following concerning faith:

- ✓ Paul taught that faith is not simply to accept or know Jesus Christ in the mind but it means giving total commitment of oneself to the will of God.
- ✓ Paul also said we are liberated or saved by God's grace in Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection instead of human effort.
- ✓ Paul also taught a person is put right with God through faith and faith alone.
- ✓ He stressed that he lived by faith in Jesus Christ who gave in his life for him.
- ✓ Paul says even the apostles believed in order to be put right with God.
- ✓ Paul continued to teach the Galatians that both the Jew and Gentiles are put right with God by faith.

- ✓ Paul went ahead to use his own example of a person who followed the Jewish law in order to win salvation, instead this turned him into a persecutor until when God's grace put him right.
- ✓ He taught the Galatians that they received the Holy Spirit as a result of their faith in Jesus not because they followed the law.
- ✓ Paul taught that God worked miracles among them as apostles because of their faith in Jesus Christ and not because they followed the law and circumcision.
- ✓ He put it clear that now the time for faith had come and so the law was no longer in charge of mankind.
- ✓ Paul used the example of Abraham as a man who was put right with God because of his faith in him but not because of following the law.
- ✓ Paul went ahead to teach that the real descendants of Abraham are those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul stressed that through faith were in union with Jesus Christ and with faith all Christians are heirs of God.

Paul taught the Galatians that with faith in Jesus Christ there are neither men nor women in Jesus.

- ✓ Paul uses the example of Sarah the wife to Abraham. She believed in bearing a son of her own who came to be known as Isaac.
- ✓ Paul also quotes the Old Testament scriptures which predicted that God would put right the Gentiles by faith in him.
- ✓ He stressed that the covenant of faith was given 430 years before the covenant of the law. So the law could not break and cancel God's promises to Abraham.
- ✓ Paul says the people without faith were spiritually immature and irresponsible.

### **ACTIVITY 3**

1. Why was Paul referring to this conflict between him and Peter at Antioch in his letter to the Galatians?
2. Discuss Paul's teaching on the idea of faith in the letter to Galatians.
3. Analyse the factors that made Paul to rebuke Peter at Antioch.

## **DAY 4**

### **THE CURSE OF THE LAW (Gal 3)**

**Examine Paul's teaching about the curse of the law in his letter to Galatians.**

- ✓ Paul said the law carried a risk of curses and so warned the Galatians that those following the law were under a curse as the scriptures said in Deut 27:26 that any person who breaks a single law is placed under a curse.
- ✓ He also said Jesus saved us from the curse of the law by being hanged on the cross there by taking on the curse that would have been ours (Deut 21:23)
- ✓ Paul taught that it is through faith that the Gentiles received blessings and the promised spirit of God. So meaning only a person of faith shall live.
- ✓ Paul taught that the law does not put a person right with God but one had to remain faithful.
- ✓ Paul also taught the Galatians that the law could not save an individual but only those who believed in Jesus Christ's death could be saved.

- ✓ He taught the Galatians that the law was given to mankind to show him what wrong doing (sin) was and to make people aware of their sins such that they could repent.
- ✓ Paul narrated that the covenant of the law was made 430 years after the covenant of faith and so the law could not break and cancel the promises of God to Abraham.
- ✓ According to Paul the law was a temporary arrangement meant last and work until the coming of the descendant of Abraham to whom the promises were made (Gal 3:10)
- ✓ Paul taught the Galatians that the law was handed down by angels and it cannot be compare with faith which was handed down directly by God to Abraham. Therefore, Paul believed that the law was of second class importance.
- ✓ He taught that the law was to enslave mankind until the coming of Jesus Christ.  
Paul taught the Galatians that now the time of faith had come; the law was no longer in charge of mankind.  
He also emphasized that the law was to separate men from women, Jews and Gentiles and free people from slaves.
- ✓ As emphasis Paul used the example of Hagar to symbolize the law and the Jewish nation under the slavery of the law.
- ✓ Hagar's son Ishmael could not become the heir of Abraham because he was born under slavery.
- ✓ Paul emphasized that the law is inferior to faith. That is to say, the law would not spiritually purify a sinner because it did not have the power to save mankind from sins.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW**

- 1. Discuss the purpose of the law according to Paul's letter to the Galatians.**
- 2. Account for the usefulness of the law according to the letter to the Galatians.**

- ✓ According to Paul the law was to identify sinners. When the Israelites started sinning God gave them the law to make them understand what wrong doing was (Gal 3:19)
- ✓ The law was meant to prepare the Jews for the coming of Jesus Christ. Indeed, it's importance was temporary just to prepare people for the coming of Christ.
- ✓ According to Paul the law was given to show the nature of sin mankind committed.
- ✓ The law was given to the Jews until the time for faith was to come that is the coming of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Paul says the law was put to distinguish between the Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free people.
- ✓ He said that the law was to bring a curse upon mankind who had failed to follow the requirements of the law.
- ✓ The law was to work on last until the coming of Jesus Christ the descendant of Abraham to whom the promises were made.
- ✓ According to Paul the law could not break and cancel the promises that God had made with Abraham because of his faith.
- ✓ Paul also stressed that the law was put to maintain holiness among the believers of God.
- ✓ It was also purposely to identify Israel as a nation of God just like a father could put guiding laws towards his children.
- ✓ According to Paul God gave the Jews laws to reveal his concern to them as his chosen nation.

## **THE WEAKNESS OF THE JEWISH LAW ACCORDING TO THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS**

### **1. Discuss the inefficiency of the law according to the letter to the Galatians.**

According to Paul the law had no power to forgive the sins of mankind in case sinned because it was only through Jesus that one's sins were forgiven. The law could not put a person right with God unless he also had faith.

- ✓ To Paul if the law could put a person right with God then Jesus Christ died for nothing. Thus the law was inefficient to the Galatians without having faith.
- ✓ Paul said that those who followed the law were spiritually immature. That is to say, it led to spiritual immaturity.
- ✓ According to Paul's teaching the law was inefficient in that observing the law had turned Paul into a persecutor of the church of Christ,
- ✓ Paul states that the law was inferior to faith because it was given to mankind through a mediator Moses.
- ✓ The law created distinctions between men and women, Jews and Gentiles, free people and slaves hence to Paul the law was inefficient in the growth of the church.
- ✓ He stated that the law was only given to the Jews as the chosen people of God thus it could not help the Gentiles to be saved but only faith.
- ✓ Paul taught that it was very hard to follow every requirement of the law written in the book of the law. So if one broke any one law according to God's standards then even other laws would be violent.
- ✓ The law led to crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross so as to save mankind from the curse of the law. Therefore, according to Paul now that Christ had died and risen faith was more important than obedience of the law.
- ✓ Paul noted that observation of the law had made mankind a prisoner or a slave instead of giving him freedom. Therefore, it wasn't necessary anymore to have the law.  
Paul noted that the law was temporary arrangement meant to last and work until the coming of Jesus Christ so now that Christ came and died for man's sins the law was no longer necessary or was inefficient
- ✓ Paul taught that the law was inefficient because it could not bring about the holy spirit as well as making miracles among the Galatians instead it was faith in Jesus Christ that could bring miracles.
- ✓ Against Paul says the law was inefficient as he said that could not make mankind inherit the blessings could not become a heir to Abraham because of born out of slavery.
- ✓ Paul stressed that the law as inefficient because it brought death to mankind yet through faith mankind was to leave.

## **THE EFFECTS OF MODERN CHURCH LAWS TO CHRISTIANS**

### **1. Discuss the effects/merits and demerits of the church laws for Christians in Uganda today. Positive effects/merits of church laws and practices**

- ✓ Law against divorce and marriage make marriage to be permanent and respect as a divine institution of God.

Church laws like preventing drunkardness especially among church leaders like priests has kept the morals of Christians.

- ✓ The church law commanding believers to practice monogamous marriages has helped to check on immorality in the society as well as respecting marriage as a divine institution. That is to say, initiated by God.
- ✓ The giving of tithes helps the clergy financially as well as aiding the church to extend services to the poor Christians.
- ✓ The catholic priests have a law of remaining celibate; this helps to be devoted to the work of God because marriage life is full of worries and challenges.
- ✓ In the church it's by law that sex has to be practiced only in marriage. This gives respect to the issue of sex which is sacred. It also reduces on sexual immorality in the society like fornication adultery and prostitution.
- ✓ In some churches baptism of infants is discouraged. This helps the baptism candidate to clearly understand the meaning of baptism.
- ✓ The vow of poverty taken some church leaders mostly the Roman catholic priests makes them depend totally on the will of God as the sole provider as well as giving assistance to the poor.
- ✓ In the church following the command of sacraments like Holy Communion and matrimony gives respect for church sacraments.
- ✓ Observing the days of obligation like Easter, supper, Christmas brings Christians together as members of the church as one body in Christ.
- ✓ The laws about leaders to be elected into higher offices of leadership. For example, the pope, archbishop and bishops help to maintain peace and order/democracy in the church.
- ✓ In most churches condoms re forbidden therefore it helps to stop the misuse of sex among youth. **Negative effects/demerits**
- ✓ The law of celibacy for the Catholic Church priests has led to sexual immorality practices by some of the priests which can cause unwanted pregnancy.
- ✓ Some church leaders pretend to be celibates but end up practicing sex leading to acquisition of AIDs.
- ✓ The vow of poverty has made some religious leaders to act or practice corruption whereby they use church funds for personal benefit like buying luxurious cars.
- ✓ Some Christians especially from the Roman Catholic Church are running away to born again churches because the Roman Catholics have so strict laws like no divorce.
- ✓ Some Christians are eloping because of fear of taking church vows.
- ✓ In most churches especially the Roman Catholics, contraceptives are discouraged because they lead to unwanted pregnancies sometimes if poorly used.
- ✓ Some churches are opposing or paying tithes every moth which they claim makes them poor. Observing the days of obligation like the Sabbath makes some people enslaved.
- ✓ The church law of observing monogamy may lead to some women being unmarried because their number is more than that of men.
- ✓ In the same way having monogamous marriage may lead to some men being unmarried, being sexually unsatisfied and this may lead to sexual immorality like adultery.

## **PAUL'S USE OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES IN HIS LETTER TO GALATIANS**

### **1. Analyse the scriptural justification Paul used to show that faith is more important than the works of the law in his letter to the Galatians.**

- Paul refers to Abraham as the father of believers whom God accepted as righteous because of his faith (Gal 3:6)
  - Paul goes on to say that the real descendants of Abraham are those who have faith in Jesus Christ but not those who observe the law.
  - In Gal 3:9 Paul quotes Abraham and says he was blessed because of his faith and so those who have faith in Jesus Christ will be blessed too.
  - Paul teaches that the Jewish scriptures predicted that Gentiles would be put right with God by faith in him which indeed was (Gal 3:8)
  - Paul says that God's promises were fulfilled through Abraham and later through his descendant Jesus Christ to indicate that it is faith that puts a person right with God.
  - He said that those depending on obedience to the law live under a curse of God because whoever does not follow everything written in the book of the law is under God's curse.
  - In Gal 2:20-21 Paul teaches that Jesus Christ died on the cross so as to save mankind from the curse of the law that was put upon them in Deut 21:23.
  - Paul says that a person who is put right with God through faith shall live hence reflecting the scriptures in the book of Habakkuk 2:4.
  - Paul says that the law was given 430 years later and so could not break or cancel God's promises to Abraham.
  - Paul uses the example of Sarah to symbolize the idea of faith and heavenly Jerusalem freed from the law (Gal 4:21-31)
  - He says Sarah's son Isaac became the heir to Abraham because he was born as a result of the promises of God.
  - He still uses the example of Hagar to represent the idea of the law and the Jewish nation under slavery (Gal 4:21-31)
- Paul's teaches the Jews were given the law to show mankind what wrong doing was and the results.
- Paul teaches the law was a temporary arrangement given to the Jews and was meant to last and work until the coming of Jesus Christ.
  - Paul quotes that the angels handed down the law through Moses acting as a mediator but the covenant of faith was directly made between God and Abraham.

### **ACTIVITY 4**

1. Discuss use of Jewish scriptures in his letter to Galatians.
2. Assess the effects of the church laws and practices in Uganda today.
3. Comment on the weakness of the law as far as the letter to the Galatians is concerned.



## **DAY 5**

### **PRESERVATION OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM (Gal 5:1-26)**

- Paul taught the Galatian Christians that freedom in Jesus Christ is what makes them true sons and daughters of God the father and so can call upon God the father Abba in prayer (Gal 4:6-7)
- Paul taught that by accepting Jesus Christ as the saviour the Galatians had been set free from the curse of the law.
- Christian freedom according to Paul meant a license to live moral life but not a license to sin.
- Paul taught that since Jesus Christ had died to set people free, they were not to allow becoming slaves to the law again.
- Paul taught that Christian freedom meant having faith in Jesus Christ as a means to being put right with God.
- He said Christian freedom does not require circumcision and other food prohibitions, otherwise this would mean that Jesus Christ died for nothing.
- Paul stressed that Christian involves loving one another plus loving our enemies and neighbours.
- Christian freedom according to Paul's teaching to free Christians means to serve one another with partiality.
- Paul taught that Christian freedom is a life of free Christians characterized by the gift of the Holy Spirit where love, patience, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness, trustfulness, self-control are practiced.
- Paul warned the Galatian Christians that they should not use their freedom to fulfil their bodily desires like fornication and jealous.
- He said that Christian freedom means the removal of sin from society because small as it is, it may affect the whole church.
- Paul says Christian freedom unites all people with Jesus Christ regardless of race, sex or free people the circumcised and non- circumcised.
- Paul taught the Galatians that they were children of a free woman, Sarah who represents the Jewish nation freed from the law.
- Paul illustrates the new freedom Galatians should enjoy by referring to Hagar and Sarah. Hagar and Ishmael represent slavery while Sarah and Isaac represent freedom and its blessing.

Paul taught the Galatians that himself was freed from the Jewish law by Jesus himself. This was on his way to Damascus when he was going to persecute Christ's followers (Acts 9)

- Paul notified the Galatians that it was due to the freedom in Christ that enabled him to rebuke Peter at Antioch. He did this in a true Christian spirit.

### **WHAT LESSONS CAN MODERN CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM THE TEACHING OF PAUL ON CHRISTIAN FREEDOM?**

- Modern Christians should love one another just as Paul emphasized to the Galatians that their Christian freedom should mean to love one another.
- Christians are called upon to worship one God as Paul emphasized to the Galatians.
- Modern Christians learn to have faith in Jesus Christ so as to get God's salvation.

- Christians today are called upon to be united in Jesus Christ regardless of race, sex, slaves or free people.
- Christians should be controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit because according to Paul this can enable a person to achieve God's glory.
- Modern Christians are called upon to preserve and guard their Christian freedom not to be controlled by one's physical desires.
- Just as Paul emphasized to the Galatians, Christians today should serve one another by carrying one another's burdens.
- Basing on Paul's teaching to the Galatians, modern Christians should produce fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives like patience, kindness, and self-control.
- Christians today should treat each other equally because Christian freedom unites all people in union with Jesus Christ.
- Modern Christians should use their Christian freedom responsibly to live holy instead of misusing it to live immoral lives.

### **HOW CAN CHRISTIANS EXERCISE THEIR CHRISTIAN FREEDOM IN MODERN TIMES?**

- A Christian can exercise his Christian freedom by worshipping one true God as Paul emphasized to the Galatians.
- Christians can exercise their Christian freedom in modern times by loving one another as Paul called upon the Galatians/as Jesus loved both Jews and Gentiles.
- In modern times Christian freedom can be exercised through promoting peace in the society.
- By being kind to one another in society.
- By helping one another as well as serving enemies.  
Be praying to God and praying for one another.
- By visiting the sick in hospitals and prisoners in jail.
- By participating in church activities like church choir, drama and plays.
- By preaching the word of God.
- By carrying out crusades and attending them.
- By carrying out missionary journeys.
- By living exemplary lives.
- By reading the bible.
- Through building various churches.
- By going for church fellowships.
- By taking part in the Lord's Supper.
- Through composing Christian songs and hymns.

### **HOW HAVE CHRISTIANS MISUSED THEIR CHRISTIAN FREEDOM TODAY?**

The following are some of the ways Christian freedom has been misused;

- Some Christians engage themselves in immoral activities like fornication, adultery, corruption.
- Some Christians dress indecently
- Some rich Christians exploit the poor Christians. That is to say, giving them little pay for hard work done.

- Some Christians are divided basing on personality grounds and denomination. This is common in Pentecostal churches.
- Some Christians have misused their freedom by sparing no time for God. That is to say, they are business oriented.
- Some Christians have misused their freedom by turning the churches into money creating ventures (business) for example in pastor Namutebi's church Liberty Worship Centre there are special seats and baskets for the poor and the rich.
- Some Christians misinterpret the gospel for their selfish interests thus misusing their Christian freedom for example Yesu Muto, Pastor Yiga.
- Some Christians still worship idols in the society which is a misuse of their freedom in Christ.
- Some Christians have misused their Christian freedom by consulting witch doctors for instance instead of praying for a boy child they go to a witch.
- Some Christians today misuse their freedom in Christ by practicing human sacrifices in order to get rich quick for example Kato Kajubi who sacrificed Kasirye from Masaka.
- Some church leaders have tended to fuel political conflicts and instability in the country. Some Christians are thieves as well as being murders.
- Some Christians continue to doubt Jesus Christ as the son of God.
- Some Christians misuse their Christian freedom when they carry out corruption and embezzlement of funds.

**“Christian freedom is the main teaching in Paul's letter to Galatians”. Asses the validity of this statement.**

To a larger extent Christian freedom is a dominate theme in Paul's letter to the Galatians because of his teaching on Christian freedom in the following ways;

- By accepting Jesus Christ as the saviour the Galatians had been set free from the curse of the law.
- Since Jesus Christ died to set them free, they were not becoming slaves to the law again.
- He encourages them to preserve and guard the Christian freedom they had got.
- Christian freedom means having faith in Jesus Christ as a means to being put right with God.
- Christian freedom does not require circumcision and other food prohibitions, otherwise this would mean that Jesus Christ died for nothing.
- Christian freedom is not a license to sin. That is to say, a license to live amoral life.
- Christian freedom means being controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- Christian freedom means to love one another.
- Christian freedom means to serve one another.
- Christian freedom calls for the manifestation of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in one's life like love, peace, self-control, kindness, goodness.
- A person who is controlled by the Holy Spirit means is not subject to the law.
- Christian freedom does not mean being controlled by one's physical desires.
- Christian freedom means the remove of sins from society because small as it is, it may affect the whole church.

- Christian freedom unites all people with Jesus Christ regardless of race, sex, slave or free people or circumcised or uncircumcised.
- Christians are children of free women, Sarah who represents the Jewish nation freed from the law.

### **However, to a smaller extent, Paul's letter to the Galatians also had other teaching to the audience**

Paul defends his gospel when he says the gospel he preaches came directly from Jesus Christ.

- He also defends his gospel when he says there is no any other gospel apart from the gospel of faith he had preached.  
Paul also his gospel when he warns should anyone preach a different gospel from that he had preached, that person was to be condemned to hell.  
Paul defends his apostleship when he says his call to be an apostle did not come from man but from Jesus Christ.
- Paul defends his apostleship when he said he was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Paul defends his apostleship when he said he was called to be an apostle before he was born.
- Paul's teaching on faith says a person is put with God through faith and faith alone instead of the law.
- Paul's teaching on faith says even Abraham believed in God and God accepted him as righteous.
- His teaching on faith says both Jews and Gentiles are put right in God by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Paul encourages Christians to always carry one another's burdens.

### **ACTIVITY 5**

- 1.Examine Paul's teaching concerning Christian freedom in his letter to the Galatians.
- 2.To what extent is Paul's teaching on Christian freedom a major theme in his letter to the Galatians?
- 3.Analyse the Christians misuse of their Christian freedom today.

### **DAY 6**

- By carrying one another's burdens, means to love one another.
- Paul advises the spiritual Christians to put right those who are caught in wrong doing but in a Gentile way.
- Paul teaches that the purpose of the law was to enslave mankind.
- Paul also teaches that the law was custodian of mankind.
- Paul also teaches that the law was a curse for mankind.
- The conflict between Peter and Paul shows that both Jews and Gentiles are equal before God.

## **THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT/ CONTRAST BETWEEN THE DESIRES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND DESIRES OF THE HUMAN NATURE (Gal 5:16-26)**

### **1. How did Saint Paul in his letter to the Galatians teach about the life guided by the Holy Spirit?**

- “Paul stresses that the life of a Christian who has found freedom is guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a Christian overcomes all weakness of the human nature.
- There is a constant war between the desires of the Holy Spirit and the desires of the flesh.
- In the power of Jesus, the weaknesses of the human nature can be overcome.
- Such evil desires will always confront a Christian who seems to be committed to his faith.
- However, at the end of the temptation a Christian will always overcome for as long as he is guided by the Holy Spirit.
- A Christian who is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit shall always be beyond the control of the law.

He says the demand of the flesh are full of immoral filthy and indecent actions like worship of idols and witchcraft, drunkardness and divisions.

Paul says evil forces in a sinful man affect his social relationships.

- People quarrel and fight, they become jealous angry and self-ambitions. These are opposed by a Christian who is guided by the Holy Spirit.
- The sin due to the desires of the flesh affects tempers and human emotions which make men envious.
- On the other hand, Paul taught under the control of the Holy Spirit manifest agape love, joy and peace.
- The Holy Spirit will produce good relationship among one another, produces virtues like patience, justice and tolerance.
- A person is not tempered.
- A Christian becomes faithful, gentle, has self-control and puts his word in action.
- The Holy Spirit unites a person with Jesus Christ.
- A person becomes spiritually rich and does things that please God.
- The power under the Holy Spirit brings a Christian closer to God and strengthens him in a much deeper relationship with God.
- He shows that there is no body who will ever satisfy the demands of the human flesh.
- Paul says when we walk in the spirit of the Lord we no longer do as we wish but as God wishes.
- The Holy Spirit enables Christians to take the right decisions in most tricky situations of life.
- Saint Paul taught that those guided by the Holy Spirit should not boast over others. That is to say, they should not be proud of themselves.
- Paul also said that those who belong to Jesus have put to death their human flesh with its desires and so should rest their faith in him.
- Paul also taught that those who are driven by sinful nature shall not inherit God's kingdom.

## **BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDEN/CARRYING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDEN (Gal 6:1-10)**

### **1. Examine Paul's appeal to the Galatians to carry one another's burdens.**

- Paul advises spiritual Christians to put right fellow Christians in any kind of wrong doing.
- He also advises spiritual Christians to exercise gentility, care and concern when putting right fellow Christians caught in wrong doing.
- Paul advises spiritual Christians in Galatia to guard themselves against being tempted in the process of bearing one another's burdens.

Paul appealed to the Galatians to continue doing good to one another instead of getting tired for they will be rewarded.

He also teaches helping one another's burdens mean loving one another which is the law of Jesus Christ (Gal 6:2)

Paul appealed to the Galatians that each one should be ready to carry his own responsibility even before trying to bear other people's burdens.

- The statement indicated that each person had to judge his own conduct and if it is good then one would be proud of what he has done for others.
- Paul warns Galatians about self-pride but encourages pride desired by God which comes from the desire to bear one another's burdens.
- Paul discourages them from comparing their contributions with what someone else has done in the process of bearing one another's burdens.
- He encourages those Christians who are being taught the gospel to share all the good things they have with their religious leaders as a sign of carrying one another's burdens (Gal 6:9)
- Paul appealed to them to take it as an opportunity to do well everyone especially to fellow Christians.
- Paul encourages the Galatians to take the opportunity of their freedom to share those in need like the sick.
- Paul discouraged the Galatians from fooling themselves by thinking that they were superior to others. He says each person will reap what he sows.
- Paul encourages them to sow in the field of the Holy Spirit by producing love, joy, kindness, peace so as to get eternal life.
- He also appealed to the Christians of Galatia to carry one another's burdens through living exemplary lives.
- Paul also advises the Christians to always have a spirit of forgiving one another.

### **HOW RELEVANT IS PAUL'S TEACHING ON CARRYING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDEN TO MODERN CHRISTIANS?**

- The strong Christians in faith should help in putting right fellow Christians caught in wrong doing just as Paul emphasized to the Galatians.
- The spiritual Christians should exercise gentility, care and concern while putting right fellow Christians caught in any kind of wrong doing.
- Like Paul advised Christians of Galatia to carry one another's burden, Christians today should also take care of religious leaders by giving them financial and material health like transport to carry out their work well.

Christians today are called upon to carry one another's burden by showing a spirit of love to each and everybody including their enemies.

Lazy Christians are called upon to work hard to carry their own burden so as to live happy life.

- Christians today should live holy lives as a way of carrying their burdens in order to be rewarded at the end.
- Modern Christians are called upon to continue doing good even during difficult times like in wars without getting tired.
- Christians today are called upon to seek for the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them as they carry on their burdens.
- Like Paul advised the Galatians to promote peace and harmony, so Christians today learn to promote the same as they carry their burdens.
- Modern Christians should be humble to one another while bearing one another's burden instead of being proud.
- Modern Christians should get rid of comparing their contribution or conduct with what other people have done for the same as Paul advised the Galatians.
- Christians should always do well to others as a way of carrying one another's burden. This is not only for the sake of benefiting from them.
- Modern Christians should sow what they would wish to reap since we are living in the period of eminate parosia this is in line with Paul's advice to the Galatians of bearing one another's burden.

## **DISCUSS THE MAIN TEACHING FOUND IN PAUL'S LETTER TO GALATIANS**

- According to Paul he taught that man cannot save himself from sin by his own efforts like obeying the law and following all religious practices but by God's grace one is saved.
- He also stressed that there is only one true gospel that he preached. That is to say, the gospel of faith indeed he pointed out that anyone preached a different gospel he needed to be condemned to hell.
- Paul confined to the Galatians and Judaizers that his call to be an apostle came directly from Jesus Christ not from a human being.
- He went ahead to defend his apostleship when he stated that he was called to be an apostle even before he was born.
- In this letter Paul teaches how he was a persecutor of the church of God but later was saved by the grace of God when he was on his way to Damascus going to persecute Christ's followers.
- Paul teaches how he rebuked Peter at Antioch to show him that even the Gentiles are saved by faith in Jesus Christ instead of law and circumcision.

In this letter to the Galatians Paul teaches that it is through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross that all men were saved.

Paul taught that Christians are put right with God through faith and faith alone and not by doing what the law requires.

In this letter Paul uses Abraham as an example to stress that a person is put right with God not by following the law but by being faithful.

- Paul taught much about the purpose of the law and says it was to enslave mankind and show mankind what sin was.
- Paul teaches in the letter that Jesus Christ emphasized equality or union of all people regardless of sex, race, background or status.
- Paul also teaches about Christian freedom in this letter where he says freedom means having faith in Jesus Christ and loving one another as well as serving one another.
- He encourages Christians to be controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit who can help them to fight their physical desires.
- Paul teaches the Galatians to carry one another's burden as a sign of loving one another.
- He advises spiritual Christians to put right those Christians who are caught in any kind of wrong doing but in a gentle way.

## **THE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL OF PAUL THAT HE PREACHED**

### **1. Explain what Paul meant by “my gospel” or “the gospel is preached to you” (Gal 1”11)**

- Paul does not imply or mean that he taught a gospel different from that which the Jerusalem apostles had preached but presented a gospel of Jesus Christ to the Galatians.
- By talking of the gospel that Paul had preached he was talking about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is to say, a gospel that centered on death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Paul by saying my gospel that the gospel he preached was directly got from God. That is to say, the gospel was not of human origin.
- Paul's gospel was that which centred on Gentile Christians mainly.
- It was a gospel which even the Jerusalem apostles were preaching and they had approved it when he attended the Jerusalem council.

Paul said to the Galatians the gospel I preached to you meaning it was a gospel of faith in Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

Paul's gospel to the Galatians emphasized that what puts a person right with God is faith in Jesus Christ but not obedience to the Jewish law.

- Paul saying my gospel meant that the gospel he preached stressed Christian freedom from the Jewish law and sin instead of being slaves to the law.
- It was a gospel that liberated people from cultural practices like circumcision which he had seen as an external mark to identify Jewish Christians.
- Paul's gospel that he preached to the Galatians was a gospel calling upon to be controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit instead of being controlled by their physical desires.

## **ACTIVITY 6**

- 1.Examine Paul's teaching on the contrast between the desires of the Holy Spirit and those of human nature.
- 2.Discuss the nature of the gospel that Paul preached to Galatians.



## **DAY 7**

### **THE CHARACTER OF PAUL AFTER HIS CONVERSION**

- When Paul got converted he changed from Judaism to Christianity by the power of God on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians (Acts 9) □ Paul's name changed from Saul to Paul.
- He became a recognized eyewitness of Jesus Christ because he had met Christ in the vision he received on his way to Damascus.
- Paul became an apostle of Jesus Christ and an eyewitness of the risen Jesus.
- He was spiritually an apostle to the Gentile Christians.
- Paul was baptized by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- After his conversion he became blind for over three days but he was given sight by the help of Ananias who placed his hand on him.
- Paul physically met the Jerusalem council/apostles and they recognized him as a fellow apostle.
- Paul wrote about 14 Christian letters of the New Testament. For example, Paul's 1 and 2 letter to the Corinthians, Paul's letter to the Galatians which add up to the 27 books of the new testament canon.
- After conversion he carried out three major missionary journeys to Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome.
- He sacrificed some of his apostolic rights like the right to carry a woman with him in order to preach the gospel with little obstacles.
- Paul was of a Jewish background which assisted him much in his work.
- He was a determined man who decided once and made sure that he had achieved his objectives. This is why he rebuked Peter at Antioch who was bringing discriminative tendencies between Jesus and Gentiles.
- He spread the gospel through baptism of new converts like Crispus, Gaius and Stephan's family in Corinth.
- After his conversion Paul lived a life of celibacy. That is to say, no marriage.
- He had strong belief in the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- He faced opposition from the judaizers for preaching the gospel of faith at the expense of the law and circumcision so he was persecuted and martyred in Rome around 60AD.
- He was a man full of love and concern and that is why in his letters he gave homely advice to his converts.
- He was an intelligent man who was ready to face any situation as well as answering difficult questions.

### **THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER**

- The first letter of Peter is believed to have been written by Peter himself around 64AD.
- The writer was one of the apostles of Jesus and he makes it clear from the beginning of the letter.
- The author is Peter whose original name was Simon but later he was named Peter by Jesus Christ.
- The author was the brother of Andrew who was also an apostle of Jesus.

- The author was Peter who was among three most beloved disciples of Jesus the other two James and John.
- The author was Peter the first disciple to dispose Jesus as Messiah.
- The author was Peter who wanted to discourage Jesus from his mission of saving sinners through suffering and Peter rebuked him.
- The author is Peter who denied Jesus three times at the critical time when Jesus was being convicted.
- The author is Peter who was the son of John.
- The writer is the first disciple to enter the empty tomb of Jesus as Jesus' body was raised (John 20:1-19)
- The author was Peter the disciple who dwell the sword and cut off he right hand side ear of one of the high priests soldiers who came to arrest Jesus.
- The author was Peter handed in the leader of Jerusalem church and was assisted by John and James.
- The author is Peter the disciple who conducted the earliest elections in the church to get the replacement of Judas Iscariot who was Mathias.
- The writer was Peter the disciple who gave a powerful (Speke) speech on the day of Pentecost leading to the conversion of 3,000 people the same day.
- He was given opportunity to take care of the church by Jesus.
- The writer was Peter who arrested and imprisoned by the Roman church officials but was released from the prison by the holy spirit (Acts 12:6-19)
- The writer is Peter who tried to walk on water sunk due to little faith.
- The author was Peter the apostle who died a martyr death in Rome.
- The author was Peter the apostle who was served by Mark as a friend and as personal secretary as an interpreter.

## **WHY SOME SCHOLARS DOUBT PETER AS THE AUTHOR**

- Some biblical scholars like Dr. Beare doubt Peter's authorship of his letter first on the ground.
- According to some scholars Peter was an illiterate and a fisherman who got a chance of going to school and hence couldn't be the author.
- He put too much emphasis on suffering showing that Peter was their writer because the climax of persecution of the church found that Peter was already dead.
- There is no direct reference to Jesus as in the letter meaning that a man like Peter who was close to Jesus could not be the writer.
- The letter was written to the Gentile community that had been evangelized by Paul and above all Peter was a special apostle of the Jews.
- The letter greatly resembled Paul the letter suggesting that Peter was not the author since he never worked closely with Paul.
- The fact that there was no reference with the holy spirit in the letter made some scholars to doubt Peter's authorship because he was so much empowered by holy spirit in his words of action.
- There is too much reference made to Greek mystery religion meaning that the author could be the pagan other than the preacher like Peter

- The letter was originally baptismal sermon but a letter to any community in that some information was added at the time of canonicity.
- Some scholars urge that the first version of the letter was in best Greek style and grammar which could not approve Peter as the author because he was not a Greek.
- Peter was known as the apostles of Jesus yet the letter was major addressing the Gentile communities.

### **TO WHOM WAS PETER'S LETTER ADDRESSED (AUDIENCE)**

- Generally, Peter refers to his audience as God's chosen province of Asia, Pontius, Galatia, Cappadocia and Bithynia among others.
- Peter's audience were strangers in sense that their nearly how was in heaven.
- He referred to his audience as strange who scattered among the pagans.
- Peter's audience were Christians who were faced by persecution and lived in foreign hands where they were regarded as strangers.
- They were already baptized Christians whom he referred to as spiritual babies (1 Peter 2:2) His audience were the Gentiles who were about the reveal of the sacrament of baptism.
- They were suffering Christians who were being persecuted extremely by the Romans and the Jewish authorities.
- His audience were the Gentiles whose Christianity was not approved by the Jewish laws.
- He also addressed the Jews who needed to be transformed from their Jewish mentality.
- He also addressed Christian husband whom he wanted to remind their duties to support their wives.
- Alternatively, Peter had women Christians as his audience whom he wanted to advise on their wives.
- The church elders and leaders plus shepherds were also his audience whom he wanted to remind their responsibilities of looking after the flock.
- His audience also consisted of the masters and their slaves.

### **ACTIVITY 7**

- 1.Examine the nature/identity of Paul after his conversion to Christianity.
- 2.What circumstances led to some scholars doubt Peter's authorship of his letter first.

### **DAY 8**

### **EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT PETER WAS PRIMARILY ADDRESSING GENTILES AND SECONDARY T THE JEWS**

To a greater extent, it was primarily addressing the Gentile Christians as discussed below:

- He places his audience in the letter like Galatia, Cappadocia were gentile ones.
- The words Peter used to address the audience "that one time you were not God's people" proves that his concern were the Gentiles.
- The past evil life of the people referred in the letter like drinking proves that he was writing to the Gentile Christians.

- In 1 Peter 1:14 he referred to the audience as Peter who was at once time evil and ignorant showing that they were the Gentiles.
- Peter used Greek names and terms in his letter to attract the attention of the Gentiles.
- In his letter, Peter refers to the empty ways of his audience which was a reflection of the Gentile life.
- One of the secretaries of Peter was a Gentile meaning that he largely Gentiles.

### **PURPOSE OF PETER'S FIRST LETTER**

- Peter's first letter was to encourage and strengthen Christians during that time (suffering).
- Peter wanted to explain the meaning of a new life in Jesus Christ which brought his death and resurrection.
- He also wanted to teach about the meaning of baptism which makes Christians to repent and turn away from pagan ways.
- He wanted to advise the wives on the proper conduct in family with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- He wanted to remind the Christian husbands about their duties of their religion.
- He wanted to discourage the belief in idols which was threatening to take up the believers of the Christianity.
- Peter wanted to inform the Christians that they were the Israel in the kingdom God.
- He wrote the letter to advise the Christians to have respect for the civil rulers without discrimination.
- He wanted to encourage the married people to have love for one another and encourage monogamous marriage.
- He wrote his letter to encourage the Christian slaves to maintain their status although they were experiencing trials and suffering.

### **PETER'S TEACHING ON TRIALS AND SUFFERING**

- 1 Peter wrote that suffering is part and parcel of Christians meaning that as long as a Christian he is bound to suffering (1 Peter 4:4-12)
- He advised Christians of his time to be glad and joy during the time of suffering.
- He teaches that trials are aimed at testing of genuine mass of Christian faith.
- He teaches that suffering and trials are temporal and that they are going to be passed away and be replaced by joy, peace, praises and comfort (Peter 5:10)
- He advises Christians to endure all forms of suffering that come their way for the sake of Jesus.
- He teaches that all those who endure trials and suffering will get a big reward.
- He advised the suffering slaves to be rather submissive to their masters.
- He promised God's blessings to all those who endure undeserved suffering.
- He discouraged slaves from revenging and threatening their harsh masters.

- He consoled the suffering Christians that they were suffering for doing what was right and therefore they should be happy.
- He teaches that their persecutions will be ashamed.
- Peter called upon the suffering Christians to be gentle and honour Christ even in terms of suffering.
- He also advised them to avoid evils like murder theft etc.
- He assured the suffering Christians of his time of the presence of the holy spirit.
- He advised them to have self-control, serve others and be hospitable even to those who make them suffer.
- He assured victory to all the suffering just as attained it after suffering.

### **RELEVANCE OF PETER'S TEACHING TO THE MODERN CHRISTIANS**

- Christians should endure suffering according to Peter's teaching because suffering is part and partial of Christian life.
- Christians who suffer should have genuine faith when faced with trials.
- Christians who suffer should keep themselves spiritually alert.
- The suffering Christians should remain in monotheism by avoiding all forms of witch craft during the time of suffering.
- Christians should read and listen to the word of God during moment of suffering.
- Christians should rejoice, guide and counsel one another.
- Christians should forgive those who harass and persecute them.
- Christians should pray to God for the help of Holy Spirit in moments of suffering.

### **PETER'S TEACHING ABOUT LIVING HOPE (1:3-12)**

- He advised Christians of his time to understand that their real home is in heaven.
- He also calls upon Christians to be thankful to God because it wasn't of his mercy that sent his son to die for the salvation of mankind.
- He assured his teachers that the heavenly hope is full of blessing for all Christians.
- He teaches that the living hope is under divine protection and it can't be attacked.
- He teaches that the resurrection of Jesus is an assurance of the living hope.
- He advised Christians to endure trials and suffering in order to qualify for heavenly rewards.
- He also assured the Christians that their sufferings were temporal and they would give way to the heavenly hope.
- He also reminded the Christians of the second coming of Jesus which was soon and that it would be a day of joy for the faithful ones.
- He stressed that those who were seeking for the living hope needed to live holy life by repenting.
- He also encouraged Christians of his time to forgive those who made them suffer.

## **RELEVANCE OF THE TEACHING TO CHRISTIANS**

- Christians should strive to attain the heavenly kingdom which is their real home.
- Christians should have faith in God and Jesus Christ in order to attain heavenly hope because its out of the faith that Christians can attain heavenly hope.
- Christians should believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ which can enable them to have their own resurrection to attain heaven.
- Christians should promote peace and joy in order to attain the heavenly peace and joy.
- Christians should endure trials and suffering with joy in order to qualify for heavenly rewards.
- Christians should prepare themselves for the second coming of Jesus which leads them to their heavenly hope.
- Christians should strive to meet the Messiah in heaven since all Christians of faith are assured of seeing Jesus Christ in heavenly kingdom.
- Christians should live holy lives in order to attain living hope.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ON HOLY LIVING**

The entire letter of first peter can be referred to as a call for holy living because Peter specifically deals with the subject matter of holy living.

## **CONTENT OF PETER'S TEACHING**

- In his teaching he reminded Christians of his time about the returning of Jesus Christ and he told them to be alert and to set their hope completely on blessings.
- He teaches that holy living calls for obedience to God therefore he calls upon the Christians to show their total obedience to God in order to be holy.
- He teaches that Christians should be holy just as their God is holy because God doesn't associate with unholy people.
- He teaches that Christians should pray to have a holy living.
- He teaches that Christians should honour the blood of Jesus Christ if they have to maintain holy living.
- Peter teaches that Christians should get rid of all evil behaviours and attitudes if they are to have a holy living.
- He teaches that to have a holy living Christians should always strive to be pure and innocent.
- He teaches that Christians should strive to walk in the light in order to have holy living.
- He teaches that it's important to maintain the baptism which the Christians have received in order to live a holy living.
- It teaches that holy living calls Christians to believe in Jesus Christ.
- He calls upon Christian slaves to obey their masters in order to attain a holy living.
- He also teaches that Christians should use their Christian freedom properly in order to live a holy life (2:15-17)
- He teaches that Christians should endure suffering without cursing and revenging if they are to live a holy living life.
- He teaches that in Christian families good conduct should be maintained in order to make a holy life.
- He emphasized that Christians should live holy lives because the end of the world is near.

## ACTIVITY 8

- 1.a) With evidence from 1 Peter, identify the Audience the author had in mind (13mks)  
b) To what extent is the letter relevant to Christians in Uganda today? (12mks)  
2.To what extent was the first letter of Peter written to the Gentile Christians? ( 25mks)

## DAY 9

### PETER'S TEACHING ABOUT BAPTISM

Baptism was one of the major ways of worship in the early church and it was carried out through emersion or Deeping someone into a pool or water.

Owing to the fact that some people had forgotten the true purpose and meaning of baptism Peter had to write partly to remind them about the implications of baptism.

#### CONTENT OF HIS TEACHING

- Peter teaches that it's through baptism that a person is introduced into God's community.
- He teaches that through baptism a person becomes a child of God and a member of Christian community.
- Peter teaches that before baptism the Gentiles Weren't God's people and therefore it is through baptism a status of a person is transformed.  
He teaches that through baptism, Christians receive new kind of life which is characterized by new freedom in Jesus Christ.
- He also teaches that baptism enable Christians to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit . For example, love, preaching etc.
- Peter teaches that baptism is more than physical washing of the body and it means spiritual washing which cleans one's soul.
- In his teaching, Peter compares baptism with the ark of Noah of the Old Testament and that baptism saves just as the ark of Noah saved people from floods.
- He teaches that baptism is opposed to the evils like telling lies, sexual immorality, worship of idols among others.
- In his teaching, Peter compares baptism challenges, trials and that's why a newly baptized Christian has strong faith.
- Baptism means being born again and he stressed that Christians should maintain their new birth by listening to the word of God.
- Peter teaches that the baptized Christians should turn away from worthless manners of worship.
- He teaches that baptism assures a person of resurrection and sharing the glory with Jesus Christ.
- He teaches that to accept baptism is the same as accepting Jesus Christ.
- Peter teaches that the baptized Christians should at according to Christian demands

## **RELEVANCE OF PETER'S TEACHING**

- Christians should take baptism seriously because it makes to become members of God's community.
- Christians should share in the living hope of attaining heavenly things and their benefit this baptism.
- Christians should attain spiritual re-birth and cleansing through baptism.
- Christians should seek for the audience of the Holy Spirit through baptism because baptism enables Christians to receive the gift of the holy spirit.
- The mature Christians should strive to baptize the young ones in their families and communities.
- Christians should seek to understand the meaning of symbols like water, white cloth candles.
- The baptized Christians should endure all forms of suffering because suffering with joy tests their faithfulness in God.
- Christians should exercise readiness to bear the cross with which they assigned during baptism.
- Christians should act as the salt of the earth in terms of behaviours in spreading the good news.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIP OR SUBMISSIONS**

- The first category, he dealt with Christian submission to the state and civil authorities.
- The second category, he dealt with wives and husbands.
- The third head dealt with submission of slaves to their masters.
- The forth category was the submission of the flock or Christians towards their shepherd.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ON CHRISTIAN'S SUBMISSION TO THEIR CIVIL AUTHORITIES**

The Christians to whom Peter wrote his first letter were living in a pagan environment where they were under the political authority and Roman emperor and his officials.

Some other Christians were under chiefs and kings unfortunately some of the leaders were naturally very dictatorial and oppressive which forced some of the Christians to disobey them hence providing Peter to advise them as follows;

- In his teachings, Peter called upon the Christians to submit to the Roman emperor and all his officials.
- He told them to obey and respect their leaders for the sake of Jesus.
- Peter had a belief that civil leaders were chosen by God so Christians had to obey them because obeying God who chosen them.
- He informed them that the purpose of authority was too bring law or order. Peter also told them that which leaders punish wrong doers. It's a way of binging about law order.
- He also teaches that Christians should love, respect and co-operate with their leaders because such cooperation brings harmony.
- Peter advised Christians of his time to respect, love or fear God whose heavenly authority is above that of the emperor.



- He also advised that the reason for obeying human authority was because the end of the world was soon.
- He advised them to live as free men by avoiding all sorts of evils. For example, refusing to pay taxes.
- He emphasized the need to co-operate and avoid rebellion against the authority.

## **RELEVANCE OF HIS TEACHING TO CHRISTIANS**

- Christians should obey and respect the human leaders. For example, president, ministers etc.
  - Christians should use their authority to serve and leaders instead of ruling.
  - Christians leaders should their authority to maintain law and order in the society with their subjects to live in harmony.
  - Leaders should lead their subjects by example. That is to say, living by what they tell their members.
  - Christian leaders should listen to their subjects, views and complaints and criticism which can be of help to them and to the society.
  - Christians should avoid revenging with insults when insulted.
  - Christians should advise one another just as Peter did in case one goes astray.
  - Christian leaders who serve as civil servants should punish wrong doers and give rewards to the obedient.
- Leaders should set their list of rules and regulations for good governance.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ON SLAVES SUBMISSION T THEIR MASTERS**

- The fact that slavery was deeply rooted in the ancient society made the apostles and other Christians to condemn it just as Jesus condemned it. This made Peter to write a teaching about the submission of slaves to their masters.
- Peter teaches that Christian slaves should be submissive to their master and that they should respect their masters with obedience (1 Peter 2:18)
- He teaches that slaves should obey both the kind and harsh masters.
- Peter also teaches that Christian masters should be glad to suffer for the right things under their masters.
- He also teaches that God will bless Christian slaves as a reward of suffering and he therefore advised them to endure under their masters.
- He teaches that Christian slaves should show love patience and image of God in their status.
- He told the Christian slaves that their suffering is a call from God.
- He teaches that Christian slaves should use Jesus' example of suffering and that they should remember how Jesus Christ suffered without committing any crime.
- He told them that they should keep hopes in God which suffering in the hands of their masters.
- He advised them to avoid quarrelling, fighting and rebelling against their harsh masters.
- He also told them to obey their masters because of the end of the world is near.
- Peter consoled them that both the masters and the slaves are equal before God.

## **RELEVANCE TO MODERN CHRISTIANS**

- Christians who are employers should respect their employees. □ Those who sense their employees as slaves should respect their masters.
- Christian employers should improve on working conditions of their employees.
- Christian employees should improve on the living conditions of their workers in form of giving them allowances and other fringe benefits.
- Christian employers should advise the employees when they go astray.
- Christian employers should approach their employees in a humble way in case they do wrong.
- Workers should make realistic demands basing on the prevailing circumstances.
- Working Christians should use peaceful means to settle their difference with their masters.
- Christians should avoid strikes and demonstrations as a way of solving their problems.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ABOUT WIFE AND HUSBAND RELATIONSHIP**

In Peter's teaching about wife and husband relationship he called upon women (wives) to be submissive to their husbands.

According to first Peter he teaches that this behaving well wives can easily win their unbelieving and believing husbands to Christ.

- He also teaches that wives should have the beauty of the heart which can strengthen their relationship with their husbands.
- He also teaches that the inner character of wives should outweigh the external decoration.
- He encourages wives to emulate Sarah's example who submitted to her husband Abraham.
- He teaches that the wives husbands are equal in the kingdom of God.
- Peter urges husbands on the other hand to have a considerate attitude towards their wives by treating them fairly.
- In his teaching, Peter refers to wives as a weaker sex and that husbands should learn to bear with them in their weakness.
- Peter shows that good relationships between wives and husbands promotes God's answering of their prayers.
- He reminded the husbands of their duties towards their wives like giving them support.
- He strongly advised husbands to live with an indirect way of calling for monogamy.
- He calls upon the husbands who are married to pagan wives to bring them to Christ.

## **ACTIVITY 9**

1. Analyse the relevance of Peter's teaching on Christians' submission to their civil authorities.
- 2.a) Examine the circumstances that prompted Paul to write his first letter to the Corinthians
- b) Show the importance of the above letter to the present church

## **DAY 10**

### **RELEVANCE TO THE MARRIED COUPLE**

- Christian wives should be humble and respectful to their husbands just as Peter advised them.
- They should accept to make leadership to their employers.
- Those who sense their employees as slaves should respect their masters.
- Christian employers should improve on working conditions of their employees.
- Christians should improve on the living conditions of their workers in form of giving them allowances and other fringe benefits.
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- He calls upon the husbands who are married to pagan wives to bring them to Christ.

## **RELEVANCE TO THE MARRIED COUPLE**

- Christian wives should be humble and respectful to their husbands just as Peter advised them.
- They should accept to make leadership to their families since both are equal before God.
- Christian wives should mind about their physical beauty so as to attract the love and attention of their husbands.
- Christian wives should also value their internal beauty more than the external beauty.
- Christian husbands should treat their consideration.
- Christian husbands should love and respect their wives.
- Christian husbands should cater for the material, social and spiritual needs of their wives.
- Christian husbands and wives should emphasize and practice equality in their families.
- Christian husbands should treat their wives as weaker sex and fairness.
- Christian husbands and wives should resolve misunderstanding that arise in their families in a friendly way.
- Christian wives and husbands should regularly conduct prayers from their family setting.
- Christian husbands and wives should maintain and promote good relationships.

## **PETER'S TEACHING ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHEPHERDS AND THEIR FLOCK (1 Peter 5:1-11)**

Peter advised shepherds/church leaders to take care of the flock because it's their God given duty (1 Peter 5;2)

He advised church leaders to do their work willingly without complaints and regrets.

- He called upon the church leaders to avoid the spirit of materialism and to work for the extension of God's kingdom.
- He advised them to preach to the people and counsel them.
- He also advised the shepherds to visit and help the needy like the sick.
- He called upon the shepherd to be exemplary to the flock by being faithful, humble, honest, loving and kind.
- He also advised the shepherds to be democratic but not dictatorial in their approach. (1 Peter 5;3)
- He assured the shepherds of rewards from the chief shepherd who is Christ.
- Peter also turned to the flock/young men and advised them to obey and respect the church leaders/elders.
- He called upon the flock/laity to be humble and avoid pride because God resisted the proud (5:5-6)
- He called upon the flock to serve one another through love, faith and correcting each other's mistake.

- He called upon the young men to address all their worries to God through prayers (1 Peter 5:7)
- Peter warned the shepherds and the flock of the presence of the devil and told them to be alert so as to avoid temptation (8:5-8)
- He called upon both the shepherds and the flock to endure trials and suffering.
- He assured the shepherd and the flock for the reward awaiting for them in the heavenly kingdom.

## **RELEVANCE TO MODERN CHRISTIANS**

- Christian leaders should resume their duties of looking after God's flock.
- They should be exemplary in their behaviour for the flock to emulate.
- They should be humble just as Jesus.
- They should be democratic and should avoid dictating over the proud.
- They should be humble and avoid pride because God resisted the proud.
- Church leaders should do the work of guiding and counselling people of the problems.
- Christians should support their church leaders.
- Christians should be contented while doing the work of God and should always accept advice from their church leaders.
- Christians should advise their church leaders instead of criticizing them.
- Christians including their church leaders should pray to God in times of trouble, temptations for God's guidance and wisdom.

## **WHY AND HOW FIRST PETER IS CONSIDERED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE KERYGMA**

The first letter of Peter is considered to be an extension of the kerygma because it refers to the prophetic messages concerning the messiah or saviour.

The letter refers to the Old Testament prophecies concerning suffering of Jesus Christ which was also contained in the kerygma.

- This letter is an extension of the kerygma because it talks about Jesus' death on the cross.
- The letter stresses that the end time is near just like the kerygma.
- The letter calls for repentance by being alert and watching which the kerygma also emphasized.
- The letter stresses the meaning and importance of baptism as a channel to salvation just as the kerygma stressed.
- The letter teaches about the heavenly hope blessing for those with faith.
- The letter calls for faith during suffering and this was stressed in the kerygma.
- The letter calls for living in preparation for Parousia which the kerygma also stressed.
- The letter shows that Jesus suffered and he was persecuted for the sake of believers and this also shows it as an extension of the kerygma.
- The letter minds believers that judgment is near just as the kerygma talked about in the last days.

## **ACTIVITY 10**

- 1.(a)Analyse the ways in which Paul disciplined himself by surrendering his privileges as an Apostle
- (b)How is Paul's example relevant to preachers today?
- 2.Compare Paul's teaching with that of Peter on faith and

## **DAY 11**

### **THE LETTER OF JAMES**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The letter of James is one of the seven New Testament books referred to as catholic letters. This is because it is not attributed to any specific audience but instead it is addressed to all Christians scattered all over the world.

It is a practical letter calling upon Christians to put the faith into God actions. That is to say, they were verbally claiming to be faithful yet their actions did not show their faith in God. The letter is believed to have been a sermon but later it was transformed to appear like a letter written to some people.

It is unfortunate that the letter contains few direct quotations from the teachings of Jesus Christ.

James's letter was addressed to the twelve tribes of Israel who were scattered all over the world in the Diaspora in places like Asia minor, Cappadocia and Galatia.

#### **THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE LETTER OF JAMES**

The authorship of the letter of James himself is unclear because the writer only identifies himself as James yet in the apostolic age there were about three personalities with the same name James as discussed below; □ There was James the disciple of Jesus Christ as well as the brother of John the sons of Zebedee (Mark 1:19)

- However, James the disciple and brother of John cannot be given the authorship of the letter because he was martyred by King Herod Agrippa around yet the letter is believed to have been written about 62AD.
- There was James the disciple of Jesus Christ and the son of Althacus. However, he could not be the author also because he played a minor role with the apostolic age.
- The author of the letter appears to have been a person who played a great role during the first century basing on the themes he hinted on like endurance and patience.
- James the brother of Jesus Christ is the author of the letter/epistle because of the following reasons;
- The traditional church attributes the letter to James the brother of Jesus Christ because he had a great influence in the early church and at times moved with Christ himself for example when Jesus met Moses and Elijah.
- James the brother of Jesus Christ was the bishop of the church of Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 15:13.

- It was James the brother of Jesus who wrote the letter because he was among the eyewitnesses of the risen Christ and his experience converted him as his follower.
- James was the head of the Jerusalem council meeting that resolved how Gentiles were to become Christians and given Paul was granted permission to go and preach there the word of God.
- The writer James was among the people who waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Pentecostal day as recorded in Acts 1:14 from then he became a great Christian.

### **WHY THE EPISTLE OF JAMES TOOK LONG TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON**

- The letter took long to be accepted because of unclear authorship. That is to say, the author only identified himself as James yet there were three personalities with the same name James in the early church.
- The letter appeared to contradict with the letter of Paul to the Galatians on the subject of faith yet Galatians was already in circulation before James's letter had emphasized faith to be put right with God but James emphasized faith and actions.
- The letter of James gives few specific references to Jesus Christ as the central figure yet for the book to be canonized it had to emphasize Jesus Christ as the central figure.
- The letter delayed to be canonized in the New Testament because it hardly gives any direct quotations from the teachings of Jesus Christ compared to the other New Testament books/letters like Paul's letter to the Galatians and the gospels.
- It gives few refers to the old testament scriptures yet at that time for a book to be canonized had to refer to some old testament scriptures like others those of prophet Isaiah and Jeremiah.
- The letter delayed to be accepted in the New Testament because it even had little message of the Kerygma yet for the book in the early church to be canonized had to contain the good news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.
- James the brother of Jesus Christ was not among the original disciples of Jesus Christ during his public ministry so his letter was accepted only because he was an associate of Jesus Christ.
- James' letter delayed to be canonized in the New Testament because James was known at first to have been a developed follower of Judaism instead of Christianity.
- The letter being more of a practical letter than a doctrinal letter. That is to say, it leaves out the most important Christian doctrines like baptism and the Lord's Supper made it to delay being accepted.
- Finally, the letter was accepted in the New Testament canon.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF JAMES' LETTER**

#### **Catholic in Nature**

- This does not mean that it was written for Roman Catholics. Rather, it means that the letter is universal. The other universal letters of the New Testament are 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John and the letter of Jude.
- It differs from letters of Paul because it was written to wider audience. Unlike the letters of Paul in which the audience is specific. For example, Galatians and 1 Corinthians the target audience of James is not specific.

- He refers to his audience as “the 12 tribes of Israel in dispersion” or God’s people scattered all over the world”. Certainly, he wasn’t writing to the 12 tribes of the Old Testament. Rather he was referring to the Christians in the early church, Christians were referred to as the “new Israel” because they had replaced “the old disobedient Israel”. Like the old Israel the new Israel was founded on the 12 pillars – the 12 apostles.
- It is characterized by opening greetings (James 1:1)
- The writer uses the term “Brethren” or “Dear Brothers” when addressing his readers.  
For example, Dear Brethren, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trial come your way (James 1:2) also James 1:19, James 2:1 etc.
- There is constant reference or allusion to the Old Testament scriptures and personalities. For instance, James refers to Abraham, Elijah and Job as people pleased God with their action. On this basis, he challenges the Christians to emulate them. (James 2:21ff, 5:5:17ff, 5:11ff)
- It is characterized by a strong belief in the second coming of Jesus Christ and the last judgment (Parousia). In James 5:7, he says “be patient then my brothers, until when the Lord comes....”
- Is it characterized by a major theme which is practical Christian living. In all the topics he handles such as riches and poverty, prayer and patience, wisdom from above and so one, he calls upon his readers to be practical Christians. That is to say, to demonstrate Christianity in good actions.
- The teachings in the letter are given in form of a sermon or homily. When one reads it attentively, it sounds as if he or she is listening to a priest or pastor giving his Sunday sermon or preaching.
- The writer uses day to day examples to drive his points home. For example, he refers to the patience of the former (James 5:7), a plant and a flower, a man who looks in (James 1:23), a poor man in rugged clothes and well-dressed man (James 2:2-4) a hungry person (James 12:2-15)
- The letter does not refer directly to the teachings of Jesus Christ. That is it isn’t possible to trace Jesus’ teachings and ways of life in this letter but this is indirect.
- The writer refers to himself as “James the servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” (James 1:1). This description does not help us to know who exactly wrote the letter. The new testament alludes/refers to three people with the names of James
  - (a) James the son of Zebedee (Mark 3:17) he was a brother of John.
  - (b) James the son of Alphaeus (Mark 3:18, Acts 1:13)
  - (c) James the brother of the Lord (Mark 6:3, Acts 12: 17)

## THE EVILS AND CHALLENGES OF JAMES’ TIME

- Most Christians were no longer praying to God (James 4:2). The few who prayed had doubts (James 1:6)
- Some prayed with wrong motives (James 4:3)
- There was neglect of orphans, widows and other poor categories (James 1:27)



- Quarrels and fights (James 4:1-2)
- Materialism and friendship with the world (James 4:1-10)
- There was pride (James 4:6) and boasting (James 4:13-17)
- Judging fellow Christian (James 4:11-12)
- They were not putting their faith into good actions (James 2)
- The rich dishonest the poor (James 2:6)
- Oppression of the poor by the rich, dragging them into courts of law (James 2:6)
- Over reliance on human wisdom which made them selfish and jealous (James 3:13-18). They misused their tongues through cursing others (3:9)
- There was slandering
- Impatience during prayer
- They were blaming God for their temptations (James 1:13)
- The rich were not paying the wages of poor People who worked in their field (5:4)
- They were swearing/taking offerings in the name of the Lord (5:12) yet they were hypocritical in their promises.
- Selfishness, envy and disorder (13:16)
- They were not repenting genuinely (James 5:16)
- They were yielding to temptations
- There was prejudice and discrimination in the church (James 2:1ff)

### **ACTIVITY 11**

- 1.Account for the delayed canonization of the letter of James into the New Testament canon
- 2.Comment on the authorship of the letter of James.

### **DAY 12**

#### **THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER/AIMS OF WRITING THE LETTER**

- James wanted to teach about the true meaning of Christian faith. Most of the early Christians refer to themselves as “faithful” or “believers” and yet they were not demonstrating them to put their faith into practical action (2:14-26)
- He wrote to remind the early Christians about the meaning, value and effects of prayer. Most Christians had stopped praying or took prayer lightly (James 5:13-20)
- James wanted to encourage and strengthen the suffering Christians. Trials and sufferings were common in the early church and tended to quench the faith of believers.
- He wanted to advise Christians on the proper use of the tongue through gossiping, slandering and boasting seem to have been common (James 3:1-12)
- He wanted to call upon Christians to yearn for heavenly wisdom. This would help them solve most of their impurities (3:13-20)
- He wanted to warn against over reliance on earthly wisdom. He believed it to be the source of selfishness, boasting and jealous (3:13-18)

- James wanted to warn Christians against prejudice, favouritism and sectarianism. Gradually, Christians had started discriminating, under looking and favouring others. This was unbecoming of Christians and made James write.
- He wanted to teach Christians about the proper attitude to riches and wealth. Many Christians had started acquiring wealth via dubious ways. For example, cheating their workers, James was concerned about the proper accumulation and utilization of wealth (4:1-10)
- He wanted to console the poor who were facing all sorts of injustices such as non-payment of the wages of their labour, being dragged into courts of law etc (2:6)
- James wanted to remind the Christians about the end of the world and the second coming of Jesus. This, to James was soon. They had to repent, be patient and behave well.
- He wanted to warn Christians about the dangers of befriending the world. That is to say, letting one's self to be taken up by worldly pleasures instead of them controlling their pleasures. In short he wanted to call for self-control (5:1-16)
- He wanted to warn Christians against boasting. Most Christians had started making their plans, boasting of various things without putting God in their plans. To James this was deadly (4:13-17)
- James wrote to call upon Christians to show practical love to the under privileged especially the widows, orphans and other poor categories.
- He wrote to condemn the evil of judging other. Some Christians had started judging themselves as spiritually superior and terming their fellow Christians as spiritually inferior. To James, this was and is un-Christian (2:1-3)
- To remind the early Christians that God is the only upright and righteous judge of mankind (James 4:11-12)
- James wanted to educate early Christians about temptations. Many were blaming God for tempting. He informed them temptations come from man's inner evil desires (1:1-14)

### **THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF JAMES**

From the above, the following can be outlined as the major concerns of James

He was concerned about the proper use of the tongue.

- He was concerned about prayerful lives. Christians should pray.
- He was concerned about people who pray with wrong motives.
- Riches which were accumulated in dubious ways.
- Rich people who did not help the poor.
- He was concerned about the theological faith.
- He wanted Christians to practice what they believed.
- Joy amidst trials.
- True religion consists in helping the poor such as widows.
- True wisdom versus earthly wisdom
- Prejudice
- Boasting
- Patience in suffering and prayer

## **THE CONCERNS OF THE LETTER OF JAMES IN DETAILS**

- James wrote about temptations and trials in which he called upon Christians to endure and trials since they were a test of their faith. Besides he said the temptations and trials come from the evil desires within one's mind but not from God.
- James was concerned about the poor. He advised them to be glad when God lifts them up, besides the kingdom of God according to James belonged to them hence giving them hope.
- About the rich/wealthy people James advised them to be glad also when God brings them down and to also take care of the poor.
- The letter of James was concerned with teaching the Christians to combine their faith with good actions. Here James encouraged Christians to copy the example of Abraham whom God accepted as righteous because of his faith and good actions.
- The letter of James had a concern of wisdom from above. In this case James advised those who lacked wisdom to pray to God to give them wisdom. He said true wisdom is characterized with peacefulness, patience, goodness instead of trusting in human wisdom which was demonic.
- James was concerned about the issue of discrimination, prejudice that existed among believers. He encouraged his listeners to treat each other equally in church instead of discriminating the poor because of their outward appearance.
- Concerning patience James encouraged the Christians to keep waiting patiently until the day Jesus Christ would return instead of being impatient.
- James was concerned about the issue of hearing and doing. He advised the Christians to be quick at hearing the word of God and also put it into good actions instead of just hearing the word of God.
- The letter of James concerned with teaching Christian to be friends of God by submitting to him alone instead of being friends to the world which is the cause of wars, fights and various killings in society.
- For the use of the tongue, James wanted to teach the listeners to control the tongue however hard it was to control it. This was because people had misused the tongue for a double purpose . That is to say, to curse mankind and at the same time praise God.
- James was concerned about judgment of one another. He advised the audience to leave judgment of fellow believers to God because he is the law giver with the power to punish and save one.
- The letter has an element of swearing falsely in God's name. James advised the Christians to always speak the truth by saying yes when one meant yes and no when one meant no instead of swearing falsely in God's name when making a promise.
- The letter had a concern of boasting about tomorrow/pride. James advised the rich always to include God in making business plans by saying "if the Lord is willing I will do this and that".

## **RELEVANCE OF JAMES' TEACHING ABOVE TO MODERN CHRISTIANS**

- Christians are called upon to endure temptations and trials since they come from the evil desires within one's mind and not from God.
- Christians are called upon to be quick in listening to the word of God and practicing it in deep action instead of just hearing.

- Rich Christians are called upon to be glad when God brings them down and to also take care of the poor.
- The poor Christians are called upon to be glad when God lifts them up just like James wrote in his letter.
- Christians are called upon to treat each other equally in church instead of discriminating just as James taught to his audience.
- Christians are called upon to combine their faith with good actions just as James encouraged the Christians to copy the example of Abraham whom God accepted as righteous because of his faith and action.
- James' teaching reminds Christians to face challenging needs of the world in faith and endurance just as James wrote in his letter.
- Christians ought to keep waiting patiently until the day Jesus Christ return instead of being impatient just like James taught to his listeners/leaders.
- Christians should pray to God to give them wisdom instead of human wisdom which is demonic that James even condemned his listeners.
- Christians should be friends of God by submitting to him alone instead of being friends to the world which is a cause of war as James said in his letter.
- Christians are called upon to control the use of the tongue however hard it is to control unlike the early Christians who used the tongue to curse mankind and at the same time to praise God which James condemned.
- Christians are called upon to leave judgment of fellow believers to God because he is the law giver with the power to punish and save as James taught in his letter.
- Christians should speak the truth like saying "yes" when one means "yes" and "no" when one means "no" instead of swearing falsely in God's name when making a promise as James said.
- Rich Christians should always include God in making business plans as James taught in his letter.
- Christians need to know sometimes trials are imaginary extents that should not be given a chance to disturb their minds as James taught in his letter.

## **THE ASPECT OF JAMES' EPISTLE BEING A SERMON VERSUS BEING A LETTER**

The letter refers to any written or printed medium of communication between two or more distant parties. A sermon is a Christian message/teaching that is delivered before a congregation concerning moral behaviour by the clergy.

Scholars have urged that the epistle of James was originally a sermon but later it was transformed into a letter to be delivered to the scattered Christians all over the world. This belief is because the epistle of James has both sides of a sermon and features of a letter.

### **ACTIVITY 12**

1. Explain the concerns of the epistle of James
2. Justify the need for writing the letter of James
3. Discuss the purpose of James' letter.

## DAY 13

### 1. Discuss the view that the letter of James is a sermon in form of a letter.

To a larger extent, James' epistle is a sermon but presented in form of a letter because of the following features of a sermon it contains:

- The epistle of James lacks formal greetings to the audience which is typical of a sermon.
- Besides the short introduction to the letter, the letter does not refer to the author himself.
- It has no particular audience to which it was addressed instead it was addressed to Christians present in that congregation.
- It lacks consistence and order. That is to say, the topics discussed in the letter are scattered throughout the letter instead of organizing them systematically.
- It is a collection of practical moral instructions which were intended to bring about the right attitude about behaviour towards God.
- It hardly refers to Jesus Christ as the central figure, only twice does it talk about him.
- It quotes few Old Testament scriptures like the scriptures of Abraham and Rahab as people who were put right with God and that of Elijah and Job.
- It lacks a final conclusion to the letter. That is to say, it ends abruptly which is typical of a sermon.
- The author uses an appealing and polite language like "my brothers and sisters, you should never treat people in different ways" this is typical of a sermon.
- He uses a strong language full of threats and warnings which suits a sermon, like the warning of the rich people to wail and weep over the miseries that were coming over them.
- It uses rhetoric language or questions. That is to say, he asks his audience questions but goes on to answer them instantly without a response from the audience like "who are those who oppress you? The rich".
- It is full of challenges which demand total change from his readers like the demand to put faith into actions, hearing the word of God and putting it into action.
- It deals with many aspects of Christian conduct in a short letter hence a sermon.
- The letter has no particular problem to be solved.

James' epistle is a sermon because it deals with a variety of sermons/topics which will include the following;

It talks of trials and temptations and the need to endure them.

- It talks of poverty and riches.
- It talks about the discrimination based on outside appearance.
- It talks about hearing and doing the word of God.
- Talks about the misuse of the tongue.
- It talks about friendship with the world.
- It talks about boasting tomorrow.
- It talks about true wisdom and false wisdom.
- It talks about judging one another.
- It talks about the need for patience.
- It talks about the need for prayer.
- It talks about the need for love for one another.

**However, to a smaller extent like any other letter, the epistle of James has features of a letter namely;**

- The letter was a mode of communication between James the author and his audience that scattered all over the world.
- The letter has its author as James the servant of God as well as the brother of Jesus Christ.
- The letter has its audience as the twelve tribes of Israel scattered all over the world.
- The letter has some form of greetings to the audience. That is to say, greetings to all God's people scattered all over the world.
- It has a purpose for which it was written. That is to say, to encourage the Christians to put their faith into practice.

### **EXPLAIN WHY THE EPISTLE OF JAMES FAILS TO QUALIFY AS A LETTER**

- Because it's more of a sermon than a letter.
- Because it's a catholic letter.
- Because it is not addressed to any particular church or audience instead it is addressed to all Christians scattered all over the world.
- This is because it is a collection of practical moral instructions about the right attitude and good behaviour.
- It does not talk about a particular problem in church.
- The author just talks about moral issues in the society.
- There is no conclusion to the letter. That is to say, it ends abruptly.
- It lacks consistence and order in its presentation of the topics.
- It hardly refers to Jesus Christ as the central figure.  
The topics in the letter apply to any community anywhere and anytime. The letter was not concerned with the message of kerygma.
- It hardly refers to the Old Testament scriptures.
- It hardly contains any formal greeting to the audience.
- It uses an appealing and polite language.
- It uses a strong full of threats and warnings to the audience.
- It uses rhetoric language and questions.

### **EVILS/IMMORALITY IN THE LETTER OF JAMES**

#### **1. Examine the particular evils of his time that James speaks against in his letter.**

- Most Christians were no longer praying to God as noted in chapter 4:4 the few who prayed had doubts in God's providence (1:6)
- Rich Christians neglected the orphans, widows and the poor category which is indicated in 4:7.
- There were constant quarrels and fights among Christians which James noted in James 4:1-2.

- Christians were greedy for material wealth and so friendly to material wealth other than being friendly with God 4:1-10.
- Many Christians were so proud of themselves (4:6) and even beautiful (4:13-17).
- Some Christians took on God's role by judging fellow Christians (4:11-12)
- James noted that Christians were not putting their faith into good action as seen in chapter 2.
- The rich dishonoured the poor (2:6) and dragged them into courts of law.
- People over relied on human wisdom which made them selfish and jealous other than relying on wisdom from above (3:13-18)
- James noted that many Christians were misusing their tongue. That is to say, instead of praying to God and blessing other they cursed others (3:9)
- People were impatient during prayers and fasting. There was blasphemy of God for their temptation but James said God doesn't tempt anyone (1:13)
- The rich committed an evil of not paying the wages of the poor who worked in their fields (5:4)
- People were envious in that they took oath in the name of the law as noted in 5:12 but at the same time they were hypocritical in their promises.
- People failed to make genuine repentance. There was prejudice and discrimination in the church as noted in 2:1ff.

## **JAMES' TEACHING ABOUT TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS**

Trials are problems and tests in a Christian life. The early church was characterized by several trials arising out of poverty and persecution.

Therefore, James taught the early church Christians about trials and temptations in the following ways;

- James said that trials, difficulties, suffering and temptations are part of Christian's life. Actually he termed it as normal features of a Christian life.
- He said that Christians should consider themselves fortunate when various trials come their way because there was no other easy way to salvation than facing trials and temptation (1:2)
- He encouraged his readers to endure trials and difficulties in all ways possible (1:4). He added on that if they endure they would be perfect and complete Christians lacking nothing.
- James teaches that trials are aimed at testing the strength of one's faith so Christians should regard themselves as privileged to prove their faith in God (1:3)
- James also teaches that a person who maintains faith amidst trials and temptations will be rewarded with eternal life and this shows God's love (2:12)
- James called upon Christians to be patient during trials and sufferings. He advises the Christians to take the example of Job and the Old Testament prophets who suffered patiently and were rewarded (5:10-11) . For example, Elijah.
- According to James 5:7 he teaches that during suffering a Christian should not loose heart instead should maintain high hope in the Lord Jesus preparing for his second coming.
- James taught his audience to endure trials and suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered too.

- James stressed that poverty is a kind of trial but however he advised the poor to be glad and rejoice because they would be awarded with heavenly reward.
- James called upon those in trials and suffering to pray and assures them that God will answer their prayers (5:1)
- James pointed out that sickness is a type of trial. He said those who are sick should pray for church leaders to pray for them (5:14-15)
- James teaches that temptations do not come from God but trials may come from God (1:13)
- James goes on to say that temptation originates from a person's inner desires. They don't come from God as God tempts no one (1:13-14)
- James warns that temptation leads to sin which internally leads to death (1:15) so Christians should avoid tempting situation.

## **LESSONS MODERN CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM JAMES TEACHING ABOUT TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS**

Christians should preserve their faith amidst trials and suffering because this is one way to achieve salvation.

- Christians today are called upon to stand firm to overcome evils like corruption prostitution cheating exams which are trials of one's faith.
- Modern Christians should understand trials are part and parcel of Christian life as James taught but amidst them a Christian should be praying.
- Poor Christians should put up with tempting situation and pray to God so that he can lift them up.
- Modern Christians ought to understand trials that come their way are aimed at testing their faith so they should regard the privileges and opportunities to pursue their faith in God.
- Christians today facing trials and suffering are called upon to take the example of Job and other Old Testament prophets who suffered patiently and were rewarded by God.
- Christians should avoid or guard against friends who lead them astray especially those who take them to the witch doctors when they face temptation and suffering . For example poverty and severe sickness.
- Modern Christians should understand those who endure trials and temptation will be rewarded in heaven as James teaches that those who endure for God's sake and Jesus' sake will achieve heavenly salvation.
- Christians today are called upon to work so hard in order to avoid poverty because its one way which causes suffering and temptation like stealing or sexual immorality.
- Modern Christians should pray with hope knowing that God will answer their prayers as James advised his readers.
- Christians should believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ and also copy the example of Jesus Christ who endured trials and sufferings and overcome persecution at least.
- During trials and persecutions, a Christian should maintain his/her love for God and fellow men. This will enable him/her to keep his/her faith.



## **JAMES' TEACHING ABOUT HEARING AND DOING**

- According to chapter 1:19 James cautions the Christians to be quick to listen but slow to speech. That is to say, they have to analyse the message before reaching out to others.
- Similarly, James advised the Christians of his time to be quick at listening but slow in getting angry. This is because getting angry is a sin that can lead to several other sins (1:19)
- He reminded the Christians that anger cannot achieve God's righteous purpose James (1:20)

James 1:20 calls upon the brothers and sisters in Christ to repent their sin and get rid of filthy habit and all wicked conduct.

James also called upon the Christians to accept the word of God and to allow it change their heart and ways of conduct.

He advised his listeners to put the word of God in good practice. According to James (1:22) listening to God's word's self-deception.

James used the example of a person who looks into a mirror but in a short time forgets how he looks like comparing it to a person who listen to the word of God but failed to put it into good practice (1:23)

- James promised his readers that whoever listens to the word of God puts it into practice and submits to God will be blessed by God in whatever he does 1:25.
- James reminded the readers that true religion consists of proper use and control of the tongue (1:26) emphasized that if one did not control the tongue his religion is worthless and deceives him/herself.
- He also assisted that true religion manifest itself in action of mercy such as taking care of orphans and widows.
- James also stressed that one has to keep away from being corrupted by the world (1:23)

## **JAMES' TEACHING ABOUT PREJUDICE (2:13)**

### **1. Indicate areas in the letter of James which show that there was tendency of prejudice.**

During James' time, the church had a tendency of giving special attention and treatment to the rich and influence members of the congregation. The rich were given front seats in the synagogue while the poor were ordered to either seat on the floor or stand at the back.

James responded to people's behaviour in the following ways;

- James called upon believers to treat each other equally by not basing on external appearance (2:1)
- He used an example of a rich man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes coming together with a poor man in ragged cloth and the rich man is given a warm welcome and the poor neglected (2:2-3)  
James told his readers that the poor are rich in faith and they are these to possess God's kingdom which he promised to those who love him.
- James advised the brothers and sisters in Christ to recall the ways Jesus used to treat people equally in order to be true Christians.
- He said/taught that discrimination based on classes can result into the division of the church yet Christ wants a united church (James 2:4)

- He warns Christians who discriminate one another that their judgment is based on evil motives (James 2:4) such judgment led Christians into sin for which they will be answerable.

James taught the rich that those who do not show love and respect to the poor will find it difficult to enter the kingdom of God. That is to say, James 2:3.

James condemned the rich for oppressing the poor by dragging them into courts of law and speaking lies against them. James 2:7 teaches that the poor are poor because of the exploitative tendency of the rich towards them.

- James called upon Christians to exercise love for one another which is the loyal law of the kingdom of God. It was given by Jesus himself and can help to remove prejudice (2:8).
- James teaches that treating people according to the external look is a sin to him its like breaking the law of love and one who breaks one law is guilty of breaking others as well (2:9-11).
- James reminds the rich about the last judgment by saying those who judge the poor basing on economic and social status are merciless and also God will not be merciful to them (2:12-13)

James appeals to the rich to behave as people who will be judged by the law. In other words, he advised them to be wise and start extending mercy to the poor (James 2:12-13)

## **HOW RELEVANT IS JAMES' TEACHING ABOUT PREJUDICE TO MODERN CHRISTIANS TODAY**

- Christians should treat each other equally not basing on external appearance.
- Christians should recall the ways Jesus used to treat people with equality in order to be a true Christian.
- Christians are called upon to exercise love to one another.
- Christians are called upon to be united in church just as Christ wants a united church.
- Christians should respect and love to the poor in order to enter God's kingdom.
- Modern Christians are called upon to forgive the poor just as James told the rich to stop oppressing by dragging them to the courts of law.
- Modern Christians are called upon to be merciful to one another just as James taught his listeners that God will not be merciful to those who are merciless.
- Christians should be wise and extend their mercy to the poor just like James appeal to the rich to behave as people who will be judged by the law.

## **ACTIVITY 12**

- 1.To what extent is the epistle of James a sermon but presented in a letter form?
- 2.How did James teach about the issue of prejudice?
- 3.How did James address his audience about hearing and doing?

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