

DERAILED

THE LESSON: GALATIANS

*To bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived,
We beseech thee, good Lord.*

No Christian is perfect. We all know what it is to struggle, to stumble, to suffer setbacks or perhaps even to get derailed entirely in our spiritual lives.

Today's petition invites us to pray for those who are in error and deceived – believers whose faith has gotten off-track in some way. Maybe you know someone who has stopped going to church, begun to dabble with false teachings, or fallen into sinful behaviour. Perhaps you've heaved a sigh and asked yourself, "What can I do about it?"

St. Paul's letter to the Galatians is a great case study for us. In it he shares about how he had to confront St. Peter on an issue that was causing major difficulties for the early Church. Some of the Jewish Christians were excluding the Gentile Christians and telling them they had to become Jewish first, and Christian second. Take a look at how St. Paul handled those who were "in error": both St. Peter and the derailed Galatian believers.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Spend some time at home considering what dangers you see for your own life of faith and offer them to God. Next, consider others who you think may be getting "derailed" and offer them one by one to God, asking him to work – maybe even through you – to bring them home to himself.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

Almighty God, who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may forsake those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, BCP PAGE 193)

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GALATIANS: **OPPOSE ERROR, RESTORE GENTLY**

2¹¹But when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned [his actions were clearly wrong]. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”...

4¹⁶Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you...

6¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ... ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.