

Galatians - Introduction

Author: Paul

Written to: Gentile Christians (2:2) who were pagan converts (4:8). Multiple locations within Galatia

When: Either around 48 A.D. Or 54-55 A.D.

Paul's time in Galatia (Acts 13:14, 51; 14:6; 16:6; 18:23; 20:4)

Galatia was not part of his missionary agenda. He stopped to recover from injuries related to his preaching and persecution and they assisted him in recovery (3:1-5; 4:13-14)

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Why: He never explicitly says!

Background Issue: Dealing with false teachers is a clear issue! Most harsh and critical language.

Get rid of Agitators and their so-called gospel and strengthen Galatians to resist.

Themes: Unity in Christ's new covenant (no requirement to become Jewish), justification by faith alone, life in the Spirit!

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Structure: There is a salutation, a body, set of moral exhortations), greetings, and a benediction. There is no initial thanksgiving, however, which indicates Paul's agitation and alarm over the theological situation in Galatia.

Lots of contrasts (true vs false gospel, law vs grace, liberty vs legalism, sonship vs slavery, fruit of the Spirit vs desires of the flesh).

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- 1. History (1-2)** Establishes foundation of Gospel he proclaimed and is defending
- 2. Theology (3-4)** Doctrinal Core – God's promise in the old covenant and its fulfillment in the law
- 3. Ethics (5-6)** live out the freedom of the gospel both in the witness to the world and their relationship with one another

Note: this is a simplification. There is some overlap that unites it all. Examples: history in chapter 4, theology in chapter 1, and ethics throughout.

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Basic Outline:

- *Browse your Study Bible
- *Research via links – “introduction to Galatians”

