

Background: Though Paul visited the region of Galatia during all three missionary journeys (the first of which is recorded in Acts 13-14), there seems to be strong contextual evidence he wrote this letter in the spring of 48 AD during his stay in Corinth (2nd missionary journey). The substance of Paul's letter seems to place its origin before the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 and before Paul penned the book of Romans. With this date in mind, one could make a strong case for Galatians being the first of the Pauline Epistles and possibly a first draft for his letter to Rome.

Main Point: Known as the "Fighting Epistle" Paul's letter to the churches in the region of Galatia (Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe) is a "stern, impassioned effort to save Christianity from becoming just a messianic sect of legalistic Judaism."

As the church was growing outside the Jewish communities and into Gentile society, a debate emerged about the true nature of salvation and ultimately how the believer was to live a life pleasing to God.

Sadly, teachers had followed Paul into these Gentile churches preaching a grace plus law gospel. Following saving faith in Jesus, these false teachers required the people to become Jews and obey the O.T. Law.

Paul not only defends and defines salvation as "justification by faith", but he passionately rejects this entire notion. In Galatians, Paul preaches "sanctification by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit." We are not only saved by faith in Jesus, but it's this same faith that gives us victory over our fleshly desires through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Because of the passion and precision by which Paul defends these foundational issues of the Christian faith, the book of Galatians has often been referred to as the "Magna Carta of the Early Church," "Declaration of Emancipation from Legalism," "Masthead of the Reformation," and "Manifesto of Christian Liberty."

GALATIANS OUTLINE:

1. PAUL'S PERSONAL DEFENSE:

GALATIANS 1:1-10	PURPOSE IN WRITING
GALATIANS 1:11-2:10	MESSAGE & AUTHORITY
GALATIANS 2:11-14	REBUKE OF PETER

2. PAUL DOCTRINAL DEFENSE:

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

GALATIANS 2:15-21	DOCTRINE DEFINED
GALATIANS 3:1-5	GALATIANS EXPERIENCE
GALATIANS 3:6-4:18	ILLUSTRATED BY ABRAHAM
GALATIANS 4:19-31	ALLEGORY OF HAGAR & SARAH

SANCTIFICATION BY THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:1-15	LIMITATIONS OF LEGALISM
GALATIANS 5:16-25	POWER FOR HOLY LIVING
GALATIANS 5:26-6:10	PRACTICAL EXHORTATIONS
GALATIANS 6:11-18	GLORY IN THE CROSS OF JESUS



Day 1: Deliverance....

Galatians 1:1-10 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does the word "salvation" mean in relation to Scripture? (2). How are we ultimately "saved" from our sins? (3). We often limit salvation to simply being saved from eternal punishment in hell. In what way do these verses broaden our perspective concerning the benefits of salvation?

Day 2: Just-as-if-id....

Galatians 2:11-21 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What are we talking about when we discuss the idea of "justification"? (2). Why are we not justified by the "works of the law"? (3). If we could be justified by the works of the law in what way would "Christ have died in vain"?

Day 3: Tutor....

Galatians 3:1-25 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What is Paul referring to when he discusses the idea of "being made perfect"? (2). Since the law proves insufficient for both salvation and perfection, what is the ultimate purpose behind the law? (3). In what way does the law still act as a teacher in the life of the believer? What does the law teach you?

Day 4: Entangled....

Galatians 5:1-15 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In what way does the doctrine of "justification by faith" and "sanctification by faith" provide the believer a life of freedom? (2). According to Paul, how does a believer "fall from grace"? (3). The new found freedom that God's grace provides a believer should naturally produce what results in the life of the Christian?

Day 5: Power for Victory....

Galatians 5:16-26 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What does Paul mean when he mentions the "lusts of the flesh"? (2). Practically, how do I have victory over my sinful desires and tendencies? (3). What should be produced in the life of the individual who prioritizes "walking in the Spirit" so they don't fulfill the "lusts of the flesh"?

Day 6: Bearing Burdens....

Galatians 6:1-5 // THINKING POINT: (1). Beyond the Holy Spirit's influence on the character of a Christian, what should be a tangible by-product of the Spirit working through the believer? (2). What is a practical way we love the people we come in contact with? (3). What does Paul mean when he discusses the idea of "bearing one another's burdens"? How do we do this?

DEVOTIONS

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