

Outline of Galatians

- 1-2 Personal — Defense of the Gospel
- 3-4 Doctrinal — Freedom from Legalism
- 5-6 Practical — Freedom to Love and Serve

Author

Internal evidence is strong that Paul is the author of the book of Galatians. The book says it was written by Paul (1:1; 5:2). Plus historical references in Acts fit well with the missionary journey's of Paul. Also, the doctrine of freedom in Christ is characteristic of Paul's teaching (5:1).

Recipients

Galatia fell subject to the Roman empire and became a province of Rome in 25 BC. Paul wrote to the churches located in the southern and Roman province of Galatia which he founded on his first missionary journey (Ac.13:38-39,46,48; 14:3,8-10). He refers to the visit in Acts 14:21. He likely wrote the epistle from Antioch of Syria shortly after his first missionary journey, but before the Jerusalem Council (52AD).

He mentions specific people who opposed him in every chapter of the book (1:6-7; 2:4-5; 3:1; 4:17; 5:7-12; 6:12-13). The identity of the Judaizers is important. They tried to discredit Paul. This is why Paul's first two chapters includes dealing with the criticism leveled against him personally. His critics appear to be Jews who claimed to be Christians who wanted Christians to submit to

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The Galatian letter warns against adding any rite or ceremony to faith to obtain God's acceptance. It warns against trusting in faith for justification, but then concluding that the only way to be sanctified is to observe some work in the flesh.

the authority of the Mosaic Law. They may have come from Jerusalem and had a wide influence. There appeared to be several Judaizers in Galatia from the references to "them" and "they" scattered throughout the book. The Jerusalem Council naturally followed (Ac.15).

Summary

Hebrews, Romans, and Galatians are all based on Habakkuk 2:4. A very distinctive impression one receives from this epistle is its severity. There is no mention of the reader's standing, nor any commendation. The introduction is rather cold compared to other epistles from Paul. There is no mention of thankfulness. Paul would often dictate his letters to a scribe (Ro.16:22). Then he would

PAUL OPPOSED IN EACH CHAPTER

1:6-7	2:4-5	3:1	4:17	5:7-12	6:12-13
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write a few words with his own hand at the end. But in Galatians (Ga.6:11) he was so concerned that he wrote the entire book himself. He starts out marveled at the Galatians' apostasy (1:6-9; 3:1-5; 4:8-11).

First, the root of every believer is God's supply of the Holy Spirit (Ga.3:5,14). One receives new life by receiving the Holy Spirit by faith at conversion. To affirm that one must, for example, be circumcised or

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baptized, to receive eternal life is to proclaim the worst of heresies. What makes Christians different is God indwells us. Second, having the Holy Spirit we are free from all bondage of the flesh (sinful human nature), rites and ceremonies. God's Spirit enables believers to obey. The Spirit has the power to master the flesh. Circumcision or baptism does not make anyone able to obey God. We can only obey God in the power of God's Spirit.

Third, the evidence of God's Spirit triumph's over the flesh (Ga.5:22). The works of the flesh are the fruit of religion that does not have the life-giving Spirit indwelling them. Fruit issues from life; works issue from ritualism. The Galatians upset Paul very much. Whenever we add anything to faith for salvation we inevitably neglect faith. That is, when we make something besides faith supreme we establish a rite (i.e., baptism). When we establish a rite, the practice of the rite will become the message. There is no motivation for righteous living. All kinds of sin result from the tragedy of adding something to the one responsibility of faith.



CHRIST IN GALATIANS

- Jesus is the source and power of the believer's new life (2:20)