

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

The Mission – Wed. Night Bible Study

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Introduction

- Author: Apostle Paul
- Date of Authorship: 48/49 A.D. (Anno Domini)
- Audience: Gentile and Jewish Believers in Galatian Churches
- Location: Galatia (current day Turkey)
- People Group: The Gauls (Celtic Peoples)
- Purpose: To correct false teaching and protect from Judaizers who were leading Gentiles to believe they had to adopt Jewish customs.

Galatians 1:1-5

1 Paul, an **apostle**—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, **who raised him from the dead**—**2** and all the brothers and sisters with me, to the **churches** in **Galatia**:

3 Grace and peace to you **from** God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- Paul: “small” or “humble”
- Apostle: “one who is sent out”
- V1: sent not from men nor from a man: Not a group or person. Not a mere mortal.
- The Gospel of God
- V1: “but by Jesus Christ and God the Father”
- V1: “-who raised Him from the dead” – The Son showed complete trust in the Father.
- Teaching Point: Trusting completely in Father God.
- Story: Kael learns to Trust his Master

Galatians 1:6-10

⁶ I am **astonished** that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under **God's curse!** ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:11-16

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

Galatians 1:17-24

¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas^[b] and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. ²¹ Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

Galatians 2

- **Persons mentioned in Ch. 2:** Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Cephas or Peter, James, John, Gentiles, and Circumcised.
- **Issue:** Peter acted a certain way with a particular group of people, while changing his behavior when in the company of others (2:11-21).
- **Message:** Although Paul does not need the backing of a formal group or organization, it meant a lot to have the blessing of the pillars of the Jerusalem church: James, Cephas and John. But what I love about Paul was that he was not afraid to address issues that caused conflict among the Church.

Cephas or Peter

- **Cephas** is the Aramaic name for “**rock**”, while **Peter** is the Greek name for “**rock**”. They are used interchangeably, as Peter’s original name was “**Simon**” (Jn. 1:42), which means “**to hear**” in Hebrew (Shamah).
- Has God given you a new name upon coming to faith? If you were to think about a name that resonates with you spiritually, what would it be?
- **For Example:** My Dad called me “Clavo” in Spanish, which means solid or immovable or reliable.

Paul and the Galatians

Setting: 14 years of ministry, seeing a many believers and Gentiles come to Christ through His message of Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul Confronted False Brothers (v. 4): pseudodelphos; Pseudo (fake) + Adelphos (brothers) "who infiltrated our ranks".

"To make us Slaves" (v. 4b): Come under the burden and hardship of the law, when Jesus died to make all free.

Galatians 2 & Acts 11:1-18

Peter testified to those in Jerusalem that the Holy Spirit moved even among the Gentiles.

This proved that the Gospel was not only for the Jews, but all people.

It did not include in the revelation, a footnote requirement about circumcision. The circumcision was the fundamental difference between Israel and the rest of the world.

Church Issues

Circumcision (v. 3)

Righthand of Fellowship (v. 9)

Hypocrisy (v. 13)

The Law vs. Freedom in Christ (15-21)

Grace (v. 21)