

# GALATIANS

College and Career Life Class  
First Baptist Church of Golden

Caleb Farnie  
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# OUTLINE

- Background of the letter of Paul to the churches of Galatia (10 minutes)
- Book Overview (25 minutes)
- Teamwork (15 minutes)
- Bringing it all back together (10 minutes)
- Closing thoughts

## BACKGROUND

**Author:** Paul

**Date:** Shortly after the Jerusalem Counsel (A.D. 48/49); or A.D. 54/55

**Reason:** The influence of Judaizers (legalizers)

- **Who were the recipients?**
  - Obviously, the Galatians. What and where is Galatia?
    - Southern Galatia (e.g. Derbe, Lystra, Iconium)
      - Paul visits during his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journeys
    - Northern Galatia (the ethnic Galatians)
      - Paul may have planted a church in Galatia on his second missionary journey
- **What was the occasion of this letter?**
  - The Judaizers' influence on the church. They wanted to convert gentiles to follow Jewish traditions (a false gospel)
  - Paul's desire is to bring them back to the grace of God, to restore what they were once so zealous over. The gospel was not lost. It was tainted with Jewish traditions and legalism.



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# BOOK OVERVIEW

## Introduction

- I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship
  - A. Thesis Statement
  - B. Paul's Personal History
  - C. Paul's Relationship to the Other Apostles
  
- II. Paul's Defense of the Gospel
  - A. Doctrinal Issue: Faith or Works
  - B. Doctrinal Argument
  - C. Paul's appeal
  
- III. The Call to Godly Living
  - A. The Danger of Falling From Grace
  - B. Life in the Spirit
  - C. Practical Exhortations

## Conclusion

# PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP

1:11 - 2:21

- Why is this needed?
  - The Judaizers tried to discredit Paul by saying that he preaches circumcision (5:11) but changed the gospel to reach the gentiles.
  - Paul's gospel is antithetical to that of the Judaizers (2:16).
  - The Law does not save, Christ saves.
- How does Paul respond?
  - The gospel he is proclaiming is from God, not man (1:11).
  - His testimony: his life before Christ, his conversion, and some history (1:13-1:24).
  - Sharing his unifying relationships with the other Apostles (2:1-10)
  - Telling of his public opposition to Peter, as his conduct was threatening to the gospel (2:11-14)
  - Reiterating the gospel of justification by faith alone (2:15-21)

# PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL (PART I)

3:1 - 4:31

- Faith or Works
  - How do we receive the Spirit? Is it by obeying the Law, or by faith? (3:2).
  - What good do we gain by obeying the law?
- Sonship of Abraham
  - Abraham was justified by faith (3:6).
  - Those who are of faith share in the blessing with Abraham (3:9).
- The Curse of the Law
  - No one is justified by the Law. Rather we are cursed by the Law, and Christ redeemed those who are cursed by faith (3:10-13).
  - Through Christ gentiles have been grafted into the inheritance of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:14)

# PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL (PART 2)

3:1 - 4:31

- Sonship of Christ
  - Before we were redeemed by Christ, we were under the Law. Christ came to redeem us to set us free from the Law and to adopt us into the family of God. We are His children; He sent the Spirit into all Christians to cry “*Abba! Father!*” (Mark 14:36, Galatians 4:6)
  - We are no longer slaves, but sons and daughters of God (4:7).
- Don't Return to Bondage
  - When we did not know God, we were slaves to those which weren't gods. We were enslaved to lesser things than God (4:8).
  - But now that we know God, how can we turn back to the weak and worthless things we formerly worshipped (Isaiah 1:10-15, Galatians 4:9)?
- The Galatians' Relationship to Paul
  - When he first planted the church in Galatia, they welcomed him, treated him well, and they attributed their reception of Christ to Paul's arrival (4:13-14).
  - Paul wishes to visit again; he wants to understand more of why the Galatians were so quick to leave the truth (4:20).



# PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL (PART 3)

3:1 - 4:31

Allegorizing Two Covenants (4:21-31)

<b>Hagar, the bond woman</b>	<b>Sarah, the free woman</b>
Ishmael, a natural birth	Isaac, a supernatural birth
The old covenant	The new covenant
Earthly Jerusalem	Heavenly Jerusalem
Judaism	Christianity

# THE CALL TO GODLY LIVING (PART I)

5:1 – 6:10

- Freedom in Christ
  - The liberty we have in Christ does not lead to license, rather it leads to responsibility and holiness by the power of the Holy Spirit (5:1).
  - To [*circumcise*], or not to [*circumcise*]; that is the question [for the Gentiles].
    - Paul makes it clear that if there is no benefit to receive circumcision, and if they believe they have to, they are obligated to keep the whole Law (5:2-3).
    - Being circumcised or not is **not** important, Paul argues, but what is important is that faith works through love (5:6)
    - The Law is fulfilled in the word “You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19)”. Love was fulfilled on the cross (5:14).

# THE CALL TO GODLY LIVING (PART 2)

5:1 – 6:10

- Practical Exhortations
  - Bearing One Another's Burdens
    - How do we love one another? If a brother is sinning, we are to gently restore them, being careful not to be tempted ourselves (6:1).
  - Money
    - The students are to share in all good things with their teacher (6:6).
    - We reap what we sow. Why do we give?
      1. The worker is worthy of his pay
      2. To give more, we “give to get to give”
    - If we sow according to the flesh, we will reap corruption; if we sow according to the Spirit, we will reap according to the Spirit (Matthew 6:20, Galatians 6:8).
    - Do good to everyone, especially God's people (6:10).

TEAMWORK



BRINGING IT ALL BACK TOGETHER