

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians



Sunday, September 3, 2017 Pastor Tom Gang

INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS

OVERVIEW AND OCCASION OF THE EPISTLE

- Galatia was a _____ province during the time of Paul's missionary journey to this part of Asia Minor. The apostle's work in that region was very fruitful as a plethora of churches were planted and flourishing, especially in the cities of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Antioch Pisidia. It was here that huge numbers of mostly _____ converts had joyfully received Christ and were being disciplined. However, where God succeeds, enemy activity is not far behind. Over time, false Jewish teachers ascended upon the local churches, propagating counterfeit doctrines, insisting the Gentiles could not become true Christians without being circumcised and keeping the Law of Moses. Unfortunately, the Galatians received this false teaching as whole-heartedly as they accepted Paul's message. This is the occasion of the epistle to the _____ of Galatia.
- No matter how hard you look, nowhere in the Apostle Paul's letters is the _____ so vehemently hammered than in this letter to the Galatians (1:8-9; 2:15-16; 3:1-3; 4:15-16; 5:7-12; 6:3, 12-15). Here in this powerful text all pseudo-Christian doctrines and fictitious beliefs are scathed and openly denounced. As we read, one can almost hear the quaking of the quill on paper and see the protruding neck veins and scorching eyes of the "apostle to the Gentiles" as he writes with his own hand. Although there are moments of lamentation and gentleness, his overall message flies in the face of modern day emergent panty-waste religionists, Christians and pastors.

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

- The title means: The country of the Gauls, Gauls (Celts) which means - _____
- The definition for Gaul or Celt is "chisel." A chisel is for chipping away at something. A chisel is a tool used for cutting or carving into a very _____ material. That is exactly what was going on in the churches of Galatia. Christ, the chief cornerstone, was being chiseled away by false teachers referred to as Judaizers—these were Jews who would not receive the simple message of the gospel of grace by faith alone. They had come into the region to adulterate Paul's gospel of grace by _____ a mixture of human works and legalism. Look at what Paul says about this - 1:6-9; 2:1-5; 3:1-3, 11-13; 4:9.
- Chapters _____ Verses _____ Words 3,098
- Author: The apostle _____ - Paul considered this letter of such importance that he _____ it with his own hand - Gal. 1:1; 5:2; 6:11

- Time of writing: The time is greatly contested. Scholars say it was anytime between 49 and 64 AD; likely _____ - _____ AD

- Theme: Jesus Christ is our _____ – Christ made us _____ from the curse of the law

Galatians is the second greatest book in the Bible concerning the doctrine of _____; the first, of course, being Romans. Romans and Galatians are two books that go perfectly together, hand-in-hand. Where Romans proves salvation is by God’s grace through Christ alone, Galatians proves that our salvation is _____ by God’s grace through Christ alone. Galatians is the counterpart to the book of Romans. The main difference is this: Romans is a doctrinal dissertation to believers about Christ’s righteousness and our salvation – it explains our righteousness in Christ. Galatians is an exposition to believers against false doctrine and false gospel messages – it explains our liberty in Christ to do what is right by God.

- Key verses: Gal. 2:20-21; 5:1 – These verses demonstrate the theme of the entire book.

- Key chapter: ____ - _____ is the prevailing theme—no works found here, only the fruit of the Spirit.

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1) Historical:

Paul writes to the churches of Galatia concerning the _____ gospel of human works and straightens them out with the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

2) Doctrinal:

Just as we are saved by grace through faith, we are also kept by that very same grace. Like then, today the enemy attempts to marry faith to _____ and _____ to spirit. Galatians answers the damnable doctrines of every false Christian religion that mixes biblical salvation with works. Our salvation is based on Jesus Christ alone — He is our power, our position, and our purpose in life. He alone gives us liberty!

3) Devotional:

There is a relentless battle within each believer for the yielding of our souls to the flesh or to the spirit. Our fruit reveals who is winning. We can choose the _____ of the flesh or the _____ of the spirit. It is always best to humble ourselves and submit to the Holy Spirit through the word of God!

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapters 1-2: Personal – The _____ of God and the gospel of Christ

Lost in Adam	Saved in Christ
Physical death in Adam	Spiritual life in Christ
False Gospel	True Gospel
Man's Reasoning	God's Revelation

Chapters 3-4: Doctrinal – The Old Testament _____ versus the grace of God

Law	Grace
Works	Faith
Curse of death	Blessing of faith
Condemnation by works	Justification by faith
Servants in bondage (defeat)	Sons in freedom (victory)
Old Covenant (Hagar)	New Covenant (Sarah)

Chapters 5-6: Practical – The life of _____ in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Living in the flesh	Walking in the Spirit
Works of the flesh	Fruit of the Spirit
Falling from grace	Standing fast in grace
World and/or self as the object of glorying	The Cross the sole object of glorying

OVERALL TRUTHS GLEANED FROM GALATIANS

- Stand fast in biblical truth – Do _____ be intimidated. Do not allow Judaizers (*to be a Christian you must keep the law of Moses*), legalists (*you must speak, think, dress, and say what they do else you are an apostate or unsaved*), or Armenians (*oversimplified – anyone that teaches a believer can lose their salvation by committing various sins*) to have a moment to speak highly of the flesh – Galatians 2:4-5
- Avoid opposition unless absolutely necessary – When confronting a false gospel or false teachings, do it with boldness, in _____, with the goal of reconciling the lost to Christ and the Christian to a proper relationship with Christ – Galatians 6:1-6
- Expect opposition and confrontation. There are false teachers and false gospel messages lying in wait to _____ and to take prisoners captive – Galatians 1:6-9

Next week: Galatians 1:1-5