

# Galatians Introduction

## 1. Context

- a. Galatia is a region of Asia Minor, near Phrygia.
  - i. Galatia contains Antioch, Lystra, Iconium, Derbe among other locations.
  - ii. Paul had been to cities of Galatia several times (Acts 14:6, 21; Acts 16:6; Acts 18:23)
  - iii. Of note, Timothy was found in Acts 16:1 in this region.
  - iv. There were multiple local churches there. (Gal 1:2)
- b. The book clearly speaks of the revelation of the mystery of Christ, though the word, "mystery" does not appear. (eg Gal 1:12, 2:20, 5:1)
- c. The Galatians:
  - i. Saved members of the body of Christ throughout Galatia, they heard the gospel through Paul. (Gal 1:2, 11)
  - ii. This body was removed unto another gospel, evidently by Jews (Gal 2:2, 4, 6)
  - iii. They had been persuaded to give up liberty to make a show of the flesh (Gal 6:11-13)

## 2. Purpose of the Book

- a. In whom we should glory. (Not in anything vain.) (Gal 1:5, Gal 6:14)
- b. A defense of the gospel. (Phil 1:17, Gal 2:21)
- c. Explain the inadequacy of the law. (Gal 4:21)
  - i. A curse, bondage, schoolmaster
- d. To teach our position under grace so that we are free from bondage, walking at liberty to serve God. (Gal 5:1, 13)

## 3. Passages we Often Reference

- a. **1:8-9** (Beware of "another gospel"), **1:11** (Paul's defense of unique apostleship)
- b. **2:6-9** (Paul adds new information to the apostles at Jerusalem), **2:19-21** (To be saved by the gospel of the grace of God is to be dead to the law)
- c. **3:2** (The law cannot perfect you), **3:13** (The law is a curse), **3:23-25** (The law was a schoolmaster), **3:28** (There is no Jew or Gentile in the body of Christ)
- d. **4:6-7** (Our position as sons), **4:10-11** (Observation of days), **4:21** (Do you not hear the law?)
- e. **5:1** (Stand fast in liberty), **5:22** (The fruit of the Spirit) **5:25** (Walking as who you are in Christ)
- f. **6:12** (Some desire to glory in you, not Christ), **6:14** (Glory in the cross of Christ)

#### **4. General Overview/Themes of Galatians**

1. Gospel reminder with greetings. Glory to God. (Gal 1:1-5)
2. Addressing a false gospel (Gal 1:6-9)
3. Paul's certification and unique apostleship (Gal 1:11-24)
4. Addressing false doctrine from Jerusalem (Gal 2:1-10)
5. Righteousness found in Christ (Gal 2:11-21)
6. The hearing of faith vs the works of the law (Gal 3:1-9)
7. The law is a curse, Christ was made a curse for us, the law was a schoolmaster (Gal 3:10-25)
8. One in the body of Christ (Gal 3:26-29)
9. Children, sons, and heirs (Gal 4:1-7)
10. Rebuke for turning to the weak and beggarly law (Gal 4:8-11)
11. Turning from Paul and the message of Christ to another pattern (Gal 4:12-20)
12. An explanation of the law - the bondage of the law (Gal 4:21-31)
13. Liberty found in Christ (Gal 5:1-13)
14. The fruit of the flesh vs the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:14-26)
15. Restoration of the brethren (Gal 6:1-6)
16. Sowing and reaping (Gal 6:7-10)
17. Glory only in the cross of Christ (Gal 6:11-18)