

# Why did Paul write the book of Galatians?

“Another gospel” (1:6)

- ▶ circumcision (2:3-5)
- ▶ “live like the Jews.”(2:14)
- ▶ Christian perfection (3:2)
- ▶ Peter’s action (2:11-14)

New Covenant era

- ▶ The Old Covenant habit
- ▶ Sabbath controversies
- ▶ The Law of Moses (Acts 15:5)

Does Galatians speak to our generation?

- ▶ A continuing controversy
- ▶ A modified Law
- ▶ An aide to sanctification
  - Christ formed in you (4:19)
  - Perfection (3:3)

The real issue: How does sanctification occur?

- The Law of Moses is a false instrument
- The answer – Galatians 5-6

## A Three Part Argument

**DEFENSE:** The authority of Paul – Gal. 1-2

- ▶ personal revelation from Jesus Christ.
- ▶ approval of the Judean churches
- ▶ an incident in Jerusalem
- ▶ agreement of the apostles – Peter, James and John
- ▶ an incident in Antioch
- ▶ a footnote: 2 Peter 3:15-16

**DOCTRINE:** The Gospel of God and the Law of Moses – Gal. 3-4

- ▶ Justification by faith and not works
  - the Covenant with Abraham
  - the Covenant with Moses
  - Abraham’s heirs – sons of Abraham
  - Christ – accursed of God for us
- ▶ The place of the Law of Moses (Gal. 3-4)
  - A late addition
  - An intercalation
    - Schoolmaster – until Christ
    - Tutor – until adoption as sons
  - “Elementary principles of the world”
    - Galatians 4:9-10; Colossians 2:8, 20-23
    - Do and live; don’t and die
    - The Law of Moses is based upon these principles
- ▶ Conclusion – cast out the slave woman

**DUTY:** Life without the Law of Moses – Gal. 5-6

- ▶ Free from the Law (5:1-6)
- ▶ The duty to run well (5:7-15)
- ▶ Walk by the Spirit (5:16-26)

## Free from the Law (5:1-6)

Freedom – the worst fear for the legalist

Christ has set us free – from what? (5:1)

- ▶ The curse (3:10)
- ▶ Slavery to the elementary principles of the world (4:9-10)
- ▶ Inability (“weak and worthless” and Col. 2:23)
- ▶ NOT freedom from righteousness

Stand firm . . . or . . . (5:2-4)

- ▶ Christ will profit you nothing
- ▶ An impossible obligation
  - The Law is indivisible
  - Law = “commandment + consequences”
- ▶ You are cut off from Christ – fallen from grace

Freedom in Christ (5:5-6)

- ▶ Through the Spirit, by faith, awaiting the hope of righteousness
  - Passive
  - Expecting
- ▶ faith working through love
  - Active
  - Faith
  - Love
  - Working

## **Run well (5:7-15)**

A dangerous deception

The confidence of Paul

The offense of the cross

- ▶ an unpopular message
- ▶ an opposed message

The call to freedom

- ▶ deny the flesh
- ▶ love your neighbor as yourself

## Walk by the Spirit (5:16-26)

The elementary principle of the world: no Law = anarchy

A divine principle: Walk by the Spirit = deny the flesh

How to control the desires of the flesh (Romans 8:5-8)

- ▶ The Spirit of God does not work by the Law
- ▶ The desires of the flesh produce the works of the flesh
  - Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality
  - Idolatry, witchcraft
  - Enmity, strife, jealousy, anger
  - Rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy
  - Drunkenness, debauchery
- \*\*\*\*No part in the Kingdom of God\*\*\*\*
- ▶ The Spirit of God leads (5:18)
  - Leading v. pointing the way
  - The fruit of the Spirit:
    - Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control
  - Fruit that “works”
  - Crucifixion of the fleshly desires
- ▶ Live by the Spirit — Walk by the Spirit
  - No reliance upon the flesh
  - “Eagerly wait” (5:5)
  - Faith working through love (5:6)
  - Proper conduct