

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:1-17

February 17, 2019

Background to Galatians

- **Paul converts to Christianity (Acts 9)**
- **1st missionary journey (Acts 13-14)**
 - Paul plants churches in the southern Galatian cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
- **Paul visits the Jerusalem Council ~ A.D. 49 (Acts 15:1-35)**
 - The Jerusalem Council decided Gentiles did not need to become Jews and follow the Mosaic Law to become Christians.
 - Paul mentions his trip to the Jerusalem council in Galatians 2:1. Therefore, Paul must have written Galatians after the Jerusalem Council.
 - Paul wrote Galatians to counter judaizing false teachers who were undermining the central NT doctrine of justification by faith. Ignoring the express decree of the Jerusalem Council (Ac 15:23–29), they spread their dangerous teaching that Gentiles must first become Jewish proselytes and submit to all the Mosaic law before they could become Christians.
- **Paul visited northern Galatia after the Jerusalem Council (Ac 16:6)**



Paul's 1st Missionary Journey: to Southern Galatia

Epistle	Date	Author
James	A.D. 44–49	James
Galatians	A.D. 49-50	Paul
1 Thessalonians	A.D. 51	Paul
2 Thessalonians	A.D. 51-52	Paul

Purpose of Galatians

Paul warns the Galatians not to tolerate any addition to the gospel of grace, particularly ritual circumcision, because a Gentile following Jesus does not need first to become a Jew.

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

1. Author (1:1-2a)

- Paul (1:1)
 - Paul defends his apostolic authority by showing that he was commissioned by the highest authority: the risen, living Lord
- All the brethren who are with me (1:2a)
 - Other believers concur with the Pauline gospel

2. Audience (1:2b)

- The local churches in southern Galatia

3. Greeting (1:3-5)

- All praise to God for the work of the cross
 - Paul begins and ends Galatians by boasting in the cross (Gal. 6:14)
 - Paul persuades the Galatians to reject the false teachers because of the work of the cross

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

B. Rebuke: the occasion of the letter (1:6-10)

Where we would normally expect to find an apostolic blessing, we hear instead an apostolic curse!

1. Paul's amazement at their departure (1:6-7)

- Leaving the biblical gospel is deserting God Himself

2. A curse on those who proclaim or receive a false gospel (1:8-9)

- The truth of the message depends on its content (whether it accords with the gospel), not the credentials of the messenger (1:8)
- So that you don't lead others astray, may God damn your soul to hell right now! (1:8-9)

3. Paul's model of not trying to please people (1:10)

- Paul does not accommodate the gospel so that his hearers would find it acceptable (1:10)

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

II. Using biography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

Defending his apostleship also proves the gospel he preached is biblical

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

1. Jesus Christ personally taught Paul the gospel (1:11-12)

- Paul's gospel was not invented by humans
 - Humans always invent a gospel of works in order to glorify themselves

2. Paul's former life in Judaism (1:13-14)

- Paul used to persecute the church (1:13)
- Paul advanced in Judaism (1:14)
 - Paul was not influenced by the biblical gospel prior to conversion

3. Paul's present life in the church (1:15-17)

- God graciously saved Paul so he would preach the gospel (1:15-16a)
 - Only divine intervention through the biblical gospel would radically change Paul's life
- For the first 3 years, Paul did not consult with other people (1:16b-17)

Paul's Pre-Conversion and Post-Conversion Travels



**Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone,
in Christ alone.**

**Adding any religious/ceremonial work results in a
message that does not save.**