

Galatians

Why Galatians?

Paul wrote this letter with righteous anger and he minces no words from the beginning. False teachers had infiltrated the churches in Galatia teaching them that they had to follow The Jewish Law AND have faith in Jesus in order to be saved. Paul's anger is justified because it is the opposite of what Paul had taught them. These false teachers were spreading lies that would lead to eternal damnation for The Galatians, so Paul wrote this letter to bring them back to the truth. Paul draws our focus back to freedom through Christ rather than pursuing a freedom they would never attain through the law. Paul's primary message is that **Christ fulfilled the law that we could never keep, and that our salvation comes only by God's grace through faith in Christ.**

Some Background

- Leon Morris wrote, "*Galatians is a passionate letter, the outpouring of the soul of a preacher on fire for his Lord and deeply committed to bringing his hearers to an understanding of what saving faith is.*"
- An approximate date of A.D. 50 is often given to this letter (meaning Paul would have been a Christian for ~15 years)
- Paul likely wrote this letter before the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 (or during it), because although he mentions several trips to Jerusalem, he makes no mention of The Council. The Council dealt with the exact issues Paul writes about, so it would be strange if the Council had already happened and for Paul to make no mention of it.
- Paul traveled to Galatia throughout all of his missionary journeys in Acts (Antioch, Derbe, Lystra and Iconium)

Key Verses

Galatians 5:1– It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

What's The Plan?

Read a chapter a day. There are 6 chapters and we will read it through roughly 5 times by the end of the month.

Getting The Most Out of This

We read historical accounts as historical accounts, poetry as poetry, and letters as letters. That means we will read Galatians like we are reading a letter (makes sense, doesn't it?!). Be sure to use the "[scripture meditation methods](#)" tool from our resources page to help you process things, and take a look at our [Quiet Time Tools](#) resources to help give you some good direction as well!

General Outline

1. The gospel under attack in Galatia (Ga 1:1–10)
2. History of the Law vs. grace debate (Ga 1:11–2:21)
3. Salvation via faith vs. salvation via works (Ga 3)
4. Slavery vs. sons and heirs of God (Ga 4)
5. The sinful flesh vs. the Holy Spirit (Ga 5)
6. How to do good in Christian community (Ga 6)

Dates the book restarts

5/3, 5/9, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29 (triple up the readings 5/30 and 5/31 and we will have read it 5 times!)