

Exploring Galatians – A Bird’s Eye View

Read Gal 1:1. Who wrote Galatians?

It is believed “Galatia” is a reference to South Galatia (modern day Turkey), and the four cities of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, which Paul evangelized during his first missionary journey. This is recorded in Acts 13 and 14.



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Read Galatians 1:18-20 and Acts 9:26-30. What is being described here and what is the link between these passages?

Read Acts 11:27-30 and Galatians 2:1-2. What is being described here and what is the link between these passages?

Read Acts 15:1-5. What is described in these verses and why did Paul again visit Jerusalem?

Many believe Galatians is the earliest letter Paul wrote (dated about AD or CE, late 40s, early 50s). It is written before the Council of Jerusalem of Acts 15. And that makes sense, since the church convened the council to rule on the very problems that Paul faced in Galatia.

Read Galatians 1:6-8. How would you summarize what the Apostle Paul is facing in the Galatian Church?

Have you ever been led astray? Have you been convinced by someone, even a friend, or a dynamic speaker or a persuasive book only to later find out that it was wrong? We are most easily convinced when we are young or not well informed on a particular topic. The new Christians in Galatia were in just such a position when false teachers launched an attack on the gospel of grace and the authority of the apostle Paul.

Read Galatians 2:11-13. Who is listed as being led astray by this false teaching?

“Sometime after Paul established the gospel in Galatia, certain Jewish Christians had arrived and taught the apostle’s Gentile converts that it was necessary to be circumcised and belong to the Jewish people in order to have God’s full blessing. In the process of making such assertions the Jewish Christian teachers had declared that they had the backing of the Jerusalem church and had apparently even “claimed” that the authority of the original apostles stood behind their teachings. And those apostles, they declared, possessed higher authority than Paul—a latecomer who had never known the earthly Jesus personally. As a result, the mission of the teachers from Jerusalem undermined both Paul’s authority and his theology”.¹

Outline of Galatians

- I. Greeting and Introduction to no other Gospel (1:1-10)
- II. History: Paul’s authority as an Apostle (1:11-2:21)
- III. Theology: Justification by Faith Alone (3:1 - 4:31)
- IV. Ethics: The responsibilities of Faith (5:1 - 6:10)
- V. Wrapping it all up (6:11-18)

¹ Knight, George. Exploring Galatians & Ephesians (Kindle Locations 137-138). Review & Herald. Kindle Edition.

Why is Galatians relevant for us today?

What do you want to get out of this study of Galatians? Please share one thought with the group.