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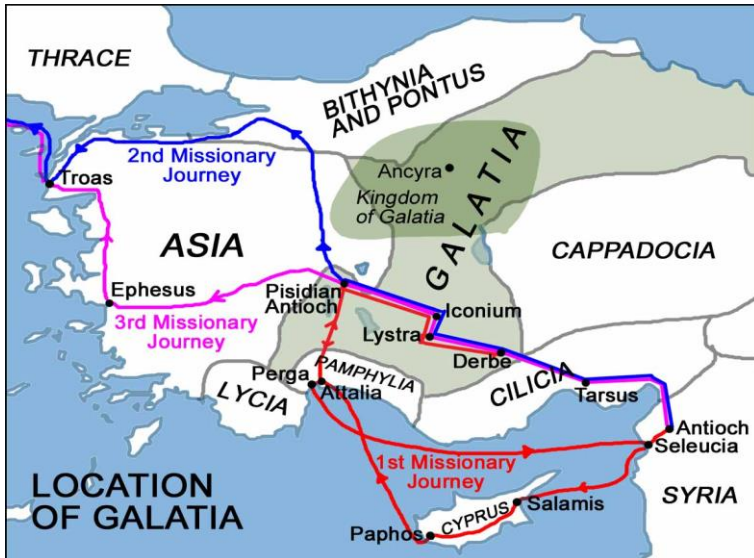
Galatians

Lesson 02 Defending the Apostleship

Galatians 1:1-5, *Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),² and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Galatia is not a town or a city, unlike Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and others that have the names of the other 13 epistles Apostle Paul wrote to them, but it is the region. In this region there are several towns, Antioch, Lystra, Iconium and Derbe.

This Galatia region maybe around 175 miles by 250 miles. It would be today in Southern Turkey.



Apostle Paul along with Barnabas, had founded these churches in Galatia, in southern Galatia, and did that on the first missionary journey. Paul is converted in Acts 9, and by the twelfth chapter he is set apart for the ministry with some other men, and they start out on their missionary journeys. **Acts 13** and **14** were their first missionary journey.

On their first missionary journey Paul went to all those places, preached the gospel, and established a church. These were the people that he gave the gospel, people dear to his heart. He went back on his second missionary journey to Galatia. He went back on his third missionary journey again to Galatia. He had a huge investment with them.

The book of James, written by James, is the first New Testament book written and it is a very foundational book. James wrote

this book A.D 48 or 49. Theme of the book of James is that salvation must manifest in a changed life.

Main theme in the book of James is, Faith without works is dead.

Wherever there is a genuine saving faith, that faith will show up in a transformed life, and manifest itself in righteous works. Salvation will produce righteous works by the transformation of the life in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

James establishes that works is not the cause of justification, but it is the fruit of justification. It is also a necessary evidence and demonstration of a new creation.

Galatians is the second book of 27 books written in the New Testament. Obviously the first letter written by Apostle Paul.

James wants us to know that when real salvation occurs in a person then the righteous works will follow.

Paul tells us in Galatians that works do not provide any element of salvation. They are not the source. Salvation is a work of grace alone through faith alone, apart from works.

Galatians is the defense of the central New Testament doctrine of justification by faith alone. This defense of the true gospel was necessitated in the first century of the New Testament era.

The reason Paul writes to Galatia because people were saying that salvation is by grace, but not grace alone. Justification is by faith, but not by faith alone, there must be works. Galatians is the earliest critical defense of justification by faith alone apart from works.

Acts 14:19, *Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.*

The Jews were so furious with him that they stoned him, and he had incredible opposition.

Paul's strategy is that when he went into any Gentile town he would go first to the synagogue, because as a Jew he had a connection. Because the gospel came to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles, he would go there to see if the Lord would save some Jews, then he would have some people with him to try to reach the Gentiles.

When Paul finds out that there are false teachers there in Galatia, who claim to be Christians who have entered inside the church and are perverting the gospel. Apostle Paul was furious!

There are other Jews who claim to be Christians, but they also believed that you could not be saved without circumcision.

Adherence to the Mosaic ceremonies, observance of the Sabbath, etc is vital to their faith.

They taught,

- To be saved you need to be circumcised
- Maintaining all the ritual ceremonies by Moses, dietary laws, customs, traditions were necessary for sanctification.

Apostle Paul wrote 13 other letters to the churches this is the only letter without any commendations to the church.

Chapters 1 and 2 are a defense of his apostleship.

Chapters 3 and 4, are the establishing of salvation by grace alone.

Chapters 5 and 6, showing Christians that their walk is a walk-in grace, not in law.

Chapters 1&2	Apostle Paul Authority
Chapters 3&4	Gospel of Grace
Chapters 5&6	Christian Walk in Grace

Galatians is a brief book, just six chapters. About five or six years later after Galatians, Paul wrote Romans. Paul defended the gospel of justification by grace through faith alone apart from works in the book of Romans as well. There are close parallels between the book of Galatians and Romans. Galatians is the condensed form of it, and Romans in lengthy dealing with the same message.

Main theme is Freedom

Galatians deals with the important issues!

- ✓ Law,
- ✓ Grace,
- ✓ Works,
- ✓ Gospel,
- ✓ Jesus Christ,
- ✓ Holy Spirit,
- ✓ Lord's death,
- ✓ His resurrection,
- ✓ Salvation,
- ✓ Sanctification and
- ✓ Freedom

The primary message of the book of Galatians is freedom!

- Freedom from sin,
- Freedom from judgment,
- Freedom from hell,
- Freedom from all forms of spiritual bondage.

About twenty times in this short epistle of six chapters we will come across some form of the word "bondage" or "freedom." It is a book about spiritual freedom.

John 8:32, *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Religion wants to offer freedom. Religion comes along and wants to aid man in finding some freedom from what grips him, what distresses him, what troubles him, and what frightens him. Ends up enslaving him into bondage.

Some say real freedom is found in being bound by no law at all. You need to be completely free to do whatever you want without restraint, and only in that will you find freedom.

Self-denial will bring you true freedom, so you join a monastery! If your lusts aren't controlled enough, you inflict wounds on your body. Maybe you go in public and close your eyes, so you don't see things.

Freedom comes in self-reliance. Freedom comes in being disconnected from anybody else's expectations, and anybody else's interference into your life. That's more and more popular nowadays as people stay single longer.

Scripture says all are enslaved by sin in the kingdom of darkness ruled by Satan, who is the prince of the power of the air who dominates them.

How do you free yourself from who you are?
Your problem is not outside of you!
It is inside of you!!

You will never be free until you are a different you!?

Paul says to Galatians and to us that, the gospel of Jesus Christ can only give you freedom.

There is nothing in the world that can free you from you.

Where does freedom lie?

Galatians 5:1, *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

Jesus Christ is *the* liberator who sets us free.

Persecution can be either external or Internal. Paul finds here the persecution is internal. There are false teachers who claim to be Christians who crept into the church and are perverting the gospel, he is furious!

Galatians 4:17-18, *They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.¹⁸ But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.*

Galatians 6:12-13, *As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.¹³ For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*

Galatians 5:10, *I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*

No other view

Galatians 5:6-9, *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. ⁷You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole lump.*

So, Paul answers them that they should have faith works through love.

Galatians 5:12-13, *I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! ¹³For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Why are you going back?

Galatians 4:9-10, *But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰You observe days and months and seasons and years.*

Galatians 3:1, *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?*

This strong letter by Apostle Paul to churches in Galatia is a defense of the gospel of grace!

Paul uses his strong language that anything and anyone that compromises salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone is *anathema*, accursed.

Author: Paul

V 1, *Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),*

He uses it again in **Galatians 5:2**, *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.*

Galatians 6:11, *See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!*

Very common name. ‘*Paulos*’ in the Greek! a well-known Jew who was converted to Christ on the Damascus Road who founded these churches and many other churches. “

He started out as Saul!

First time we hear about him is in the book of Acts chapter 7. He is holding the cloaks of the people that are stoning Stephen to death. Stephen has preached the gospel in Jerusalem. The Jews are furious, they begin to stone him to death, and there’s

a guy standing there holding the garments of the people stoning Stephen and that is none other than a man named Saul.

Saul was very devoted to Judaism.

Galatians 1:14, *"I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.*

Reason for destroying,

Galatians 1:13, *"I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it."*

That's the Saul we meet in the book of Acts chapter 8.

Then again, we meet him in the next chapter!

Acts 9:1-2,

Christianity became known as "the Way," because Jesus said He was the Way!

Acts 9:3-12,

God gave Ananias a vision, and Paul a vision of Ananias to set up the meeting.

Acts 9:13-20,

This is an unbelievable miracle!

A man who has been such an extreme Pharisee, he advanced so much in his Judaism which made him to murder Christians.

Matter of three days he became a preacher of Lord Jesus Christ from murderer!

Possible only by God through His incredible power. We can't explain with our human wisdom.

1 Timothy 1:13, *although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*

How Paul feels about these false teachers trying to Judaize the Gentiles?

Philippians 3:1, *Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.*

Always trying to protect them by repeating what he said while he was there preaching, establishing churches, and taught them day and night.

Paul will travel on a missionary journey preach the Gospel, people get saved then the church established. Then the false preachers come and brings disruption. Paul will write to them to remind them what he told while he was with them. To protect the true Gospel and the believers!

Any faithful preacher has two-fold work in their ministry.

- Proclaimer of truth and
- Protector of truth.

We should be

- ✓ offensive in our proclamation, and
- ✓ defensive in our guarding of the truth.

Paul wanted to guard the truth, and he did it by proclaiming the truth, and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit write the truth in his thirteen epistles.

Philippians 3:2, *Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!*

That's the worst thing you could say about somebody.

Who is he talking about?

"Beware of the dogs. Beware of the evil workers."

Who is he talking about?

"Beware of the false circumcision,"

False teachers crept into the church and preached that grace and faith is not enough, you need works.

You need to be circumcised.

You need to keep the prescriptions of Mosaic ceremony.

Philippians 3:3-9, *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews;*

concerning the law, a Pharisee;⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

This is a standard pattern for Paul in his defense of the true gospel to expose those teaching the false gospels.

Paul writes to Titus one but the last letter.

Titus 1:10-11, For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

They are in it for the money.

Titus 1:16, *They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

- ✓ Detestable,
- ✓ Disobedient,
- ✓ Worthless,

- ✓ Rebellious
- ✓ Empty talkers, and
- ✓ Deceivers

All these characters must be silenced.

Anybody who came along and added anything to salvation by grace alone through faith alone was a threat.

Paul's ministry, one hand is teaching the gospel of Christ, on the other side is warning and assaulting false doctrine.

He told the Ephesian elders when he was leaving them after spending three long valuable years night and day with them.

Acts 20:29-31, *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

So, Galatians is Paul's first book. It is also a critical against false gospels that really is as severe as any book that he wrote, because he must attack error, he has to defend truth.