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## Book of Galatians

**Author:** Paul of Tarsus, Jewish Parents, Roman Citizen and Spoke eloquently Greek language. Tent maker.

**Year Written:**

Letter Name	Year Written
1 Thessalonians	52 AD
2 Thessalonians	52AD
1 Corinthians	57 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
Galatians	55-57 AD
Romans	57AD
Ephesians	62AD
Philippians	62AD
Colossians	52AD
Philemon	63AD
Hebrews	64-65AD
Titus	64-65 AD
1 Timothy	64-65 AD
2 Timothy	66-67 AD

**Historical background and purpose:**

**Galatians 1:6-7,** *“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different*

*gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ”*

From the above verse itself its very evident that Apostle Paul was dealing with a serious problem in the church and also we can understand that this is not another encouraging letter of a pastor who wants to encourage his congregation. Rather dealing with the serious issue of doctrinal and heretical teaching.

When Apostle Paul established the churches in Galatia during his missionary trip the church had mostly Jewish believers and partly converted Gentile believers. Apostle Paul wanted to confirm to the doctrine he preached that Justification by faith alone in Lord Jesus Christ. Remember when Apostle Paul written to the church in Rome hew was dealing with all kinds of issue with Jewish believers but here in Galatians he mainly deals with that men are justified by faith without the works of the Law of Moses.

Paul writes this letter to protest against adding anything with the work of Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus plus anything is equal to nothing.

The false teachers have crept into the church and they have taught that of justification by faith rather than by the works of the law had been obscured by the Jews insistence that believers in Christ must keep the law if they expected to be perfect before God. This has affected the liberty what the believers have enjoyed in the work of Jesus Christ.

The Jewish members who rejected the Church's policy to allow gentiles to become members of the Church without undergoing physical circumcision this is against the basic teaching in which Apostle Paul founded the church. Jewish troublemakers were agitating for the Church to reverse its approach even though the Church had formally adopted this basic doctrine. The trouble makers had a legalistic mentality, urging the Church to model itself after Judaism instead of accepting Christ's leadership.

The fact that it was necessary for the apostle Paul to write this forceful letter demonstrates that those pushing the deviation had taken a strong foothold in Galatia.

Galatians 5:12: *"I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!"*

Paul is saying he wishes that these people who are so obsessed with that kind of cutting would cut themselves off of the Body of Christ entirely because their thinking has no place in the Church of God.

The book of Galatians counters the mistaken thinking that salvation could be earned through some legalistic formula. And at the same time it was not an argument against whether a believer was required to keep Jewish law.

There is a world of difference between thinking that salvation can be earned by keeping a set of rules, and the fact that those who receive salvation must live by God's rules.

The key personalities of this book are the Apostle Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Abraham, Titus, and false teachers.

The book has 6 chapters and 149 verses

### **Brief Summary:**

Apostle Paul divided these six chapters in the following order.

The first two chapters are personal (1&2) Then the second two chapters about Jesus Christ plus Law (3&4) then last two chapters Believers freedom but with the responsibility (5&6).

The Jewish were adding Christ plus law whereas the Gentile believers were adding Jesus plus freedom. Both are wrong.

The Jewish believers those who were saved were return to the Law of Moses as their source of Justification. But they were not only becoming popular they were able to even pull Peter and Barnabas to their advantage by pulling them to their side. (Galatians 2:11-13) So Apostle Paul has to speak to them again and again that their saving faith and justification has nothing to do with their keeping the Law of Moses.

So Paul contradicts the Law and Grace

- Law has no ability to justify 2:16
- Dead to Law 2:19
- Abraham justified by Faith 3:6
- Law brings wrath not justification 3:10
- Love Not works fulfil the Law 5:14

So if you are Jew don't add anything to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ had done on the cross. Your Law keeping doesn't give any brownie point before God. The Law was given as tutor to take you to Christ. 3:24

So Apostle Paul points out to us to see the difference between legalism and being law abiding. Paul argued with equal force against legalism and for being law abiding.

The analogy of how parents administer household rules illustrates legalism verses being law abiding. Legalism would be demonstrated by a home in which parents offer love to their children only if their children obey to strict rules. In such a home, there are rules for every aspect of life from morning to evening. Harsh punishment is given for breaking them. "Love" has to be earned. Of course, it's not truly love, and such a home is dysfunctional.

Whereas the law abiding is demonstrated by a home in which parents love their children unconditionally but at the same time teach their children that they expect a positive standard of behaviour. When the children fail to live by those standards in some way, the parents lovingly correct the children and require of them to change their behaviour. The children are always loved but they are also guided every day in every way through life.

Christianity is nothing but a family. God's laws are the household rules for His children's behaviour. HE loves HIS

children unconditionally, yet at the same time HE guides them in how they are to live.

When we fail to live by HIS laws and every person sins HE corrects us, requiring us to change our behaviour. Keeping His laws does not make people His children. They become His children because we are born into the family of God when we receive Jesus Christ our saviour. God produces HIS children in love, and then HE guides them in love through HIS beneficial household rules known as HIS laws.

Law abiding is normal and healthy in both a physical family and in God's family. Any peaceful society expects its citizens to be law abiding. A person who rejects and refuses to submit to law is considered a criminal! Also it is reasonable, normal and biblical to believe that the citizens of God's Kingdom, the members of His household, need to be law abiding.

Paul takes the pain to explain the two covenants given to slave and to free women.

For the Gentile believers Paul writes to them about the Spiritual Freedom you have got it as a result of justification by grace through faith. He points out to them that the freedom is not do anything you want but

- Entangle yourself with yoke of bondage again 5:1
- Opportunity to love one another not an excuse to gratify your lust 5:13 & 6:7-10
- Bearing the fruit of the Spirit 5:22-23

That doesn't mean that you are in safe zone or insulated from the worldly troubles rather if you try to live that life you will encounter more troubles but remember that your flesh has been crucified with Christ. 2:20

As born again believer you ought to live in the Spirit and walk by Spirit. When you walk in the spirit your life fruits will be evident to others to glorify God.

**Galatians 2:20**, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"*

If Paul had not been successful in his argument for justification by faith alone, Christianity would have remained a sect within Judaism, rather than becoming the way of salvation to whole World.

### **Application for today:**

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Galatians 3:11, *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”*

The life of believers is not just you are saved by faith but by living every moment. Not that faith is something we raise up on our own it is the gift of God, not of works but it is our responsibility.

We show our Joy and Faith in Christ so that others will see the work of Christ in us. Because Jesus said we would be known by the fruit of our lives (Matthew 7:16)

As Christians we should be diligent in determined to build upon the saving faith within us so that our lives will reflect Christ and others will see Him in us and “glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).