

Galatians

The Unencumbered Gospel of Jesus



Who, What, When, Where, and Why?

Galatians was written by Paul to the churches of Galatia sometime between AD 47 and AD 58.

The main point of Galatians is that **the gospel + ____ = not the gospel**. To Paul, the gospel by itself is enough to save. When people begin adding demands and works to the gospel, what they have left is no longer the gospel of Jesus. Hence, the subtitle: “The Unencumbered Gospel.”

1

APOLOGETIC

Paul **defends** his apostleship and Law-free Gospel. (Galatians 1-2)

2

POLEMIC

Paul **argues** his case that salvation is through faith, not works. (Galatians 3-5:12)

3

ENCOURAGEMENT

Paul **encourages** the church with the gospel he had just defended. (Galatians 5:13-6)



Faith Versus Works

Are we justified by faith or works?



Grace Versus Law

Are we under grace or are we under the Law?



Spirit Versus Flesh

Do we walk by the Spirit or live in the flesh?

Galatians 1:1-10

The first ten verses of Galatians introduce the two major issues Paul will discuss: his apostleship and the nature of the gospel.

There were many in Paul's day who claimed to be apostles through letters they sent, personal visits, and even through what Paul called false signs. It was no surprise, then, that the church was a little hesitant when one of the leading persecutors began following and teaching Christ.

Despite performing many legitimate miracles, what Paul called the signs of an apostle, there were some who still doubted his ministry. This doubt, however, didn't come from simply being afraid of Paul; it came because Paul refused to bind the Law of Moses on the new Gentile converts.

Some were trying to force a young man named Titus to be circumcised, but Paul wouldn't allow it, so the church called a council in Jerusalem.



“Who gave Himself for our sins...”

Paul's ministry was vindicated, and his Law-free gospel to the Gentiles would continue.

It was Paul's belief that since Jesus gave Himself for our sins, there is nothing that himself, Titus, or even ourselves could do to earn our salvation; Jesus has accomplished that on our behalf.

Instead, we appropriate the work of Christ through our faith just like Abraham. To add anything to that is not the gospel of Jesus.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Galatians 1:6-10 was one of my favorite passages to use when talking with someone about our disagreements. To me, teaching something other than what I believed was teaching another gospel, but what did Paul mean by this expression? Does this passage really condemn anyone who doesn't agree with us?

In Galatians 3:7-9, Paul says that the gospel was preached to Abraham and that Abraham was justified by faith. Whoever believes this gospel, Paul says, is a child of Abraham.

The gospel is no more and no less than Jesus.

