

PAUL'S LETTER
TO THE
GALATIANS

...Law or Liberty?

By Frank Jamerson

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Lesson 1

Galatians 1:1-10

Introduction:

- A. Paul and Barnabas founded these churches during the first journey, Acts 13:14; 14:19-23. Paul and Silas visited them on the 2nd journey, Acts 16:1-5.
- B. “The Galatians were a branch of the Gauls, originally from north of the Black Sea, split off from the main migration westward to France, who settled in central Asia Minor in the third century B.C. They were emotional, impulsive and changeable, as evidenced by their worshipping Paul, and then stoning him, Acts 14:13, 19” (**Halley’s Pocket Bible Handbook**).
- C. Date: Likely dates are “either during Paul’s three-year work in Ephesus on the third missionary journey (A.D. 53-56) or during his eighteen month stay in Corinth on his second missionary journey (A.D. 53)” (**Commentary on Galatians**, Mike Willis).

Outline and questions:

- A. Personal greetings, 1:1-5.
1. Paul was not an apostle of (apo: from, or origin), nor by (dia: through, or by means of) man.
 - a. Paul was chosen by Christ, Acts 26:12-18.
 - b. He was an apostle “born out of due time,” 1 Corinthians 15:8; Acts 1:21-26.
 - c. Although chosen out of the usual time, he had the signs of apostleship, 2 Corinthians 12:12.
 2. Churches of Galatia probably included: Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, Acts 13:14-14:23.
 3. The gospel in capsule, verse 4:
 - a. The sacrificial death of Christ, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
 - b. Delivery from the evil world, Colossians 1:13.
 - c. It was according to God’s will, Ephesians 1:4-11.

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- B. Perversion of the gospel, 1:6-10.
1. They had moved to a different (heteros: indicates one of a different sort) gospel, which was not another (allos: indicates another of the same sort). (John 14:16 uses the word allos; Acts 7:18; Romans 7:23 use the word heteros.)
 2. It makes a difference what we believe. A distorted gospel is no gospel.
 - a. Paul presents the hypothetical case of an angel or an apostle teaching a different gospel. Even that would be condemned.
 - b. Accursed – means “the disfavor of God,” or “devoted to destruction.”
 3. “Judging from the words which I just uttered, am I now trying to be a man-pleaser or a God-pleaser?” (Willis, p. 19).

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What was the general purpose of the letter to the Galatians?
2. How did Paul emphasize that his gospel came directly from God?
3. What characteristics of the Galatians may have caused them problems?
4. What is the probable date of the book?
5. Give three points in Paul's capsule of the gospel.

