

GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE



Galatians 1

2 Challenges from Judaizers.

1. Paul not authentic apostle.

vs.1 *“Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ...”*

2. Paul’s message is watered down.

vs.10 *“Or do I seek to please men?”*

vs. 9 “...if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

vs. 11 “...gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.”

Acts 20:24

“...and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Gospels are like a photograph.

— You see what man saw.

Paul's writings are like a CT scan.

— You see what God saw.

In Paul's writing you see what happened in the Spirit at the cross.

Galatians 2:1-10

“Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.”

vs. 2b (NLT) *“I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing.”*

vs. 2b (Message) *“...exposing my years of work to denigration and endangering my present ministry.*



← Paul's route

Galatian church begun on Paul's 1st missionary journey.

GALATIA

ASIA

Antioch in Pisidia

PHRYGIA
Pisidia

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

PAMPHYLIA

Perga
Attalia

CILICIA

Tarsus

LYCIA

Seleucia

Antioch of Syria

SYRIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CYPRUS

Salamis

Paphos

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Acts 13:4-14:28 (1st Journey)

Acts 13:38-39

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Acts 14:2-3 “... unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ... city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles.”

Acts 14:19-20

“...they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city.”

The birthing of the church in Galatia was no small feat. Paul was willing to lay down his life.

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1,5

“...men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: ‘Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ ... Pharisees stood up and insisted, ‘The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.’”

Summary Of Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:19-20

“Therefore I judge that we should not trouble {not make it difficult (NLT)} those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.”

Adding anything to Jesus in order to be accepted by God threatens the very freedom of the church.

Galatians 2:21 *“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”*

Galatians 5:4 *“...you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”*

Truth and freedom are at stake!

These three things happen:

1. Ministry to real people is going to be undone.
2. Our freedom is lost and we become slaves again.
3. We exchange the truth for a lie.

This is not some obscure problem that Paul faced hundreds of years ago; this is the problem that we all face everyday.

2 Questions:

1. How do you look at others who have confessed Jesus as Saviour?
2. How free are you from the idolatry of self-righteousness?

C.S. Lewis “Christianity must be from God, for who else could have thought it up!”

Jesus plus nothing equals everything.

Jesus plus anything else is slavery, and it will kill you.

Acts 13:38-39

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