

GALATIANS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. "The epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine." - Martin Luther.
 - B. It has been called:
 - 1. "The battle cry of the Reformation"
 - 2. "The great charter of religious freedom"
 - 3. "The Christians declaration of independence" etc.
 - C. Its importance is seen in the basic questions it answers.
 - 1. How can I find true happiness?
 - 2. How can I obtain peace, tranquility, freedom from fear?
 - D. The object of this letter is to recall the Galatians to the gospel which ~~they had received from the apostle Paul, and from which they had drifted~~
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To Whom Was It Written?

- A. Answer not quite as simple as it might seem.
 - B. The Gauls - Galatians
 - 1. To the churches Paul visited on 1st Missionary journey and 2nd.
 - 2. Or to the region to the North, where Paul visited..un-named cities. (Acts 16, 18).
 - C. When was it written...Some time in mid or late 50's.
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OCCASION AND PURPOSE

- A. After Paul's preaching and departure, Judaizing teachers had appeared among the Galatian churches.
 - 1. Made attack both on the person and teaching of Paul.
 - 2. Denied that he was an apostle of Christ.
 - 3. Then taught and demanded that Christians must observe the law of Moses as a final condition of salvation.
 - B. Paul's purpose was to deal with these false teachers, and if possible bring back the Galatian Christians.
 - 1. The purpose of the book
 - a. Salvation by faith on one hand
 - b. Freedom from the law on the other.
 - 2. Judaizers had sought to discredit Paul's teaching by discrediting him.
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The Attack and Defense

- A. PAUL'S QUALIFICATIONS:
 - 1. Paul of necessity wrote about himself.
 - 2. Because the accuracy and authority of the message preached was dependent upon the verity of his claims to being an apostle. '3.

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The Attack and Defense, cont.

4. He insisted:

- a. “..the gospel which was preached by me...is not after man...neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ (1:11,12).
- b. He prohibited the preaching of “...any gospel other than that which ye received” (1:9).
- c. Those who would preach a perverted gospel were to “be anathema”

B. PAUL’S RECOGNITION:

1. He was recognized as an apostle by the other apostles (2:7-9) read.
 2. Even recalls the unpleasant incident of the confrontation at Antioch with Peter over this very matter. (Jews from Jerusalem)
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The Promise-The Law-The Faith

A. Section 2; chapter 3 and 4 might well be thus titled.

1. Paul showed that Abraham was made acceptable before God according to the same plan, in principle, by which men are made acceptable by Christ. God promised Abraham....3:8
2. Promised to Abraham long before the Law.

B. Law came in besides...The Purpose of the Law, as recounted in this epistle.

1. Because of transgressions (3:19)
2. A “tutor to bring us into Christ” (3:24)
3. READ 3:29.

C. NATURE OF SAVING FAITH.

1. “Ye are” because “ye were”
 2. “Ye are...sons of God” because “you were baptized into Christ” (3:26,27)
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PRACTICAL EXHORTATION

- A. In chapter 5 and 6, Paul exhorted the Galatians Christians to be steadfast in the faith and to fulfill every Christian duty.
 - B. Relevance Today - Many issues that presently confront God's people have their answer revealed in these six chapters.
 - 1. Tampering with the Word (1)
 - 2. Apostasy Possible (5)
 - 3. Unity in Christ (3)
 - 4. End of Old Law (2 & 3)
 - 5. Christian Freedom (5) free to do what is right.
 - 6. Benevolence (6)
 - 7. Christian Conflict (5) Fruit of spirit vs. Works of the flesh.
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CONCLUSION

- A. THE GOOD NEWS IS UNCHANGEABLE J(1:1-24)
 - 1. Paul is surprised at their removal from the gospel (1:6,7)
 - 2. Those who pervert the gospel are condemned (1:8,9).
 - 3. Paul received the gospel from God, not men (1:10-12)
 - a. It was no part of his early education (1:12-14)
 - b. Paul was specially called to be an apostle (1:15).
 - B. **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.**
 - 1. Some seem to think that a person may do as he pleases but either ought not or will not, reap what he has sown.
 - 2. What folly people perpetuate to think that some way, some how, they shall be able to veto or repeal the law of sowing and reaping.
 - 3. Galatians 6:6-8:
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