



EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS



▶ Galatians Chapter 1 – *Recap*

- ▶ The Lord Jesus Christ, gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father – 1:4
- ▶ If anyone preaches a different gospel, let him be accursed – 1:8-9
- ▶ The gospel that Paul preached was not received from man but by way of a revelation through Jesus Christ – 1:12

▶ Galatians Chapter 2 – *Recap*

- ▶ Paul continues to defend his apostleship...
- ▶ Paul went to Jerusalem to discuss the law of circumcision with the apostles and elders – 2:1-10
- ▶ James, Cephas and John extended the right hand of fellowship to Paul and Barnabas – 2:7-9
- ▶ Paul opposes Peter for his hypocrisy concerning circumcision – 2:11-13
- ▶ Paul gives stern message that justification is not by the works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us – 2:14-21

- ▶ Galatians 2:14-16 – *We are not justified by the Law of Moses, but by faith*
 - ▶ They were not straightforward about the truth
 - ▶ Some say, Stand for the truth, only when it's the popular thing to do
 - ▶ Inconsistency and Hypocrisy
 - ▶ Peter taught the first Gentile converts and ate with them – Acts 11:2-3
 - ▶ Now by example, he is insisting that Gentiles live like Jews
 - ▶ By example, Peter was binding the Law of Moses
 - ▶ A man is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Christ Jesus – Acts 13:38-39/Galatians 2:16

▶ Galatians 2:17-21 – *If righteousness is through the Law, Christ died needlessly*

▶ Is Christ a minister of Sin?

▶ He led men to abandon the Law of Moses but now we are all in sin because we are not preaching/practicing circumcision?

▶ If circumcision is still necessary, then following Christ makes us sinners because He led men to abandon the Law of Moses as a means of justification

▶ May it never be! Righteousness is not through the Law, but faith

▶ Those who are in Christ are crucified with Christ

▶ We now live by faith in the Son of God who gave Himself for us

▶ If righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly

▶ Galatians – The dating of this letter and Peters opposition

- ▶ Paul converted around A.D. 36
- ▶ Paul goes to Arabia and returns 3 years – Gal 1:17-18
- ▶ Interval of 14 years, Paul goes up to Jerusalem for circumcision meeting – Gal 2:1; Acts 15
- ▶ Jerusalem meeting over circumcision A.D. 50
- ▶ Peters' opposition, either in A.D. 50 or A.D. 54
- ▶ The letter is possibly written around A.D. 57

▶ Galatians – The dating of this letter and Peters opposition

- ▶ Peter comes to Antioch and Paul opposes him, when did this happen?
 - ▶ What is Paul's point in telling this story to the Galatians?
 - ▶ The Galatians had fallen for another gospel that Peter was also caught up in. This is Paul telling another apostle that he was in error and that its faith in Jesus that brings justification and not the works of the Law. This validates his apostleship. It wasn't until Peter, James and John extended the right hand of fellowship in Jerusalem that this would happen, which was in A.D. 50
 - ▶ This event could be dated either in A.D. 50, shortly after the Jerusalem meeting and before Paul leaves Antioch for his second journey or around A.D. 54 prior to leaving Antioch for his third journey
 - ▶ It is suggested that the letter to the Galatians was written in A.D 56-57 on his third journey from Corinth

GALATIANS LETTER OUTLINE

- ▶ Paul is an Apostle through Jesus Christ and not after man (ch 1-2)
- ▶ Justification is by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law of Moses (ch 3-4)
- ▶ Exhortations to steadfastness and faithfulness to responsibilities of a Christian (ch 5-6)

▶ Galatians 3:1-5 – *How did you receive the Spirit?*

- ▶ Who has bewitched you?
- ▶ Did you receive the Word of God (Spirit) by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith? – Acts 13
- ▶ Are you so foolish as to think you can turn from the system of faith by which you received the Holy Spirit and be brought to maturity through a system of works that depends on fleshly perfection? Can you now live a perfect life as Christians by keeping the law?
- ▶ Did you suffer for nothing?
- ▶ Who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you?

▶ Galatians 3:6-9 – *Abraham is the example of the principle of Faith*

- ▶ Abraham was justified before the works of the law
 - ▶ He believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness
 - ▶ Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3; James 2:21-24 – The kind of faith that saves is a faith that obeys like Abraham did
- ▶ Salvation by faith in Christ was preached to Abraham
 - ▶ Gentiles would be blessed through the sacrifice of Christ
 - ▶ All who obey the gospel of Christ become “heirs according to the promise” – Gal 3:28-29