



Liberated to Live Free in Christ

a study of Galatians

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Lesson Outline – September 7, 2023

- Origin of the Letter
- Author of the Letter
- Recipients of the Letter
- Form of the Letter
- Purpose of the Letter

Origin of Galatians

- Purpose

- Reason for writing – 1:6
- Resolution – 5:1

- Background

- Asia Minor – created by Augustus (25 BCE) as Provincia Galatia
- Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe in Acts 14:1-23

- Timing

- As early as 49 CE; or as late as 56 CE

Author of Galatians

- Paul's personal story
 - An apostle not from men nor through men (1:1).
 - A direct recipient of the Gospel (1:12).
 - A Jew and former persecutor of the church (1:13-14).
 - Called by God in an act of predestination (1:15).
 - Defender of the Gospel (Ch. 2).

Paul is the organizing pastor of the believers in Galatia and functions under apostolic authority.

Recipients of Galatians

□ Primarily Gentiles

- Ethnic Galatians (north)
- Residents of Rome's province (south)
- Distinctions in Acts 13-14 and Acts 16:6 and 18:23 lead to belief that the northern Celtic tribes were the audience for Paul's letter.

□ Already believers by the time of this letter

□ Struggling to discern the practical implications of the Gospel

Form of Galatians

Outline

- I. Personal: Christian Liberty and Grace – Chapters 1 & 2
 - A. 1:1-10 □ Grace declared
 - B. 1:11-24 □ Grace demonstrated
 - C. 2:1-21 □ Grace defended

- II. Doctrinal: Christian Liberty and the Law – Chapters 3 & 4
 - A. 3 □ Response to sexual scandal
 - B. 4 □ Response to lawsuits

- III. Practical: Christian Liberty and Life – Chapters 5 & 6
 - A. 5 □ Choose liberty, not bondage
 - B. 6 □ Glorify God by serving others

Form of Galatians (*cont'd.*)

Because Galatians is a letter, it is best to read and study it as a letter. Keep in mind:

- ❑ Paul's intention
 - What does Paul want to communicate?

- ❑ Paul's passion
 - How are Paul's arguments shaped by how he feels about the need for this letter?

- ❑ Paul's proclamation
 - What does Paul say?
 - Why does Paul say it?

Purpose of Galatians

Theology

1. Christology
2. Pneumatology
3. Ecclesiology
4. Eschatology

Themes

1. Right relationship
2. New creation
3. Life-giving Spirit
4. Unity
5. Liberty/Freedom