

**Book / Epistle:**

GALATIANS

**Author:** Paul**To Whom Written:** To the various churches in the province of Galatia. There is debate over just what churches might have been included here.

The **South Galatian Theory** sees Galatia as encompassing primarily the southern cities of the Roman province, namely, Lycia, Perga, Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbea and Attalia. These were visited by Paul on his first missionary journey (A.D. April, 48 through September, 49; cf. Acts 13-14; dates per Dr. Harold Hoehner).

The **North Galatian Theory** sees Galatia as the broader, originally-labeled central region including much of modern Turkey. Specifically, they see Paul as addressing the northern region, those visited on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (A.D. May, 50 through September, 52; cf Acts 15:39-18:22; dates per Dr. Harold Hoehner). This would include Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch. This is covered by one verse in Acts 16:6.

The significance is not vested primarily in which cities were involved, but in the timing. Did Paul write Galatians after his 1<sup>st</sup> journey or after his 2<sup>nd</sup> journey; that is the question. Most hold the South Galatian view. Personally, I believe the Northern view has much in its favor.

**When Written:** If one holds to the Southern view, Galatians was written in A.D. 49. The Northern view presumes this was written in A.D. 56. If written in A.D. 49, of course, this would precede the Thessalonian letters in order of their composition for the churches. Personally, I have written that the North Galatian view is to be preferred, and that Galatians was written in A.D. 52.

**Theme:** The False and the True

**Why?:** The Galatians were descendants of Gallic tribes who came to central Turkey many centuries earlier. They had a reputation for being very emotive, wild, and mountaineering types. When Paul visited them and converted them to Christ, they responded with vigor and enthusiasm. But, certain Christian Jews came up from Jerusalem and told them that Paul was in error regarding the Gospel and Christianity. It seems they taught one or both of these points:

1. To be a complete and true Christian, one must become also a Jew, be circumcised, and adopt the practices of Judaism.
2. The Gospel itself requires one to become a Jew in order to be truly saved.

In either case, this was totally counter to what Paul had taught and that which the Jerusalem council (Acts 15; A.D. 49) required. It is probable that the second point was especially taught, which would explain Paul's startling anathema of 1:8-9.

Incidentally, one of the arguments for the South Galatian view hinges on this Jerusalem Council. It is thought that this was called because of this incursion of these teachers, and that Paul wrote Galatians after this, carrying the full authority of the Church at Jerusalem. It is assumed that this Council settled such arguments and that no further problems of this type would occur. Thus, the idea that Paul wrote much later would be baseless.

However, it makes good sense to argue that Paul was hyper-indignant precisely because several years had elapsed since the Council, and still Jewish teachers were continuing to make these false declarations. To each his own.

In any event, Paul is vigorously defending the Gospel as that which grew out of the Old Testament, but is not a subset of the Old Testament, but is an entirely new revelation of God.

**GALATIANS (continued)**

**Key passages / verses:**

1:8-9	...any other gospel is anathema
2:20	I have been crucified with Christ...
3:24	Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ...
3:28	There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
4:6	And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
5:1	Stand fast therefore in the liberty...
5:22	But the fruit of the Spirit is....
6:14	But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**OUTLINE:**

**Chapter 1 A False Message**

- "Hetero" vs. "Allo"
- Source of Paul's Message

**Chapter 2 A False Manner**

- The Jerusalem Council
- Peter's Hypocrisy
- Crucified with Christ?

**Chapter 3 A False Morality**

- Completed by the Flesh?
- Cursed by the Law?
- Purpose of the Law?

**Chapter 4 A False Motive**

- Adopted – So, Why Turn Back?
- Led Astray by False Teachers? – Their motive
- About the Law

**Chapter 5 A False Mindset**

- Fallen from Grace?
- Works of Flesh – Fruit of Spirit

**Chapter 6 A False "Maturity"**

- Sharing Counsel
- Sharing Support
- Glorifying in Christ Alone

**UNIVERSITY OF THE BIBLE**

By: William J. Allen Litchfield Hills Bible Church  
© William J. Allen, September, 2004

10/23/2007