

Galatians – The letter of Christian liberty

And when [Paul and Barnabas] arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they remained no little time with the disciples. But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” (Acts 14:27-15:1)

Key verse: *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”. ~ Galatians 5:1*

GREETING AND REASON FOR THE LETTER (1:1-6)

THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF HIS GOSPEL (1:11-17)

PAUL’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE OTHER APOSTLES (1:18-2:21)

THEY RECEIVED THE SPIRIT BY THE HEARING OF FAITH, NOT BY THE LAW? (3:1-4)

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH - THE SCRIPTURAL ARGUMENT (3:6-25)

CLAIM THAT IN CHRIST THEY ARE HEIRS OF THE PROMISE (3:26-29)

- Two things were being required of the Gentile Christians that jeopardized their understanding of salvation. (*Circumcision & Observance of the Law of Moses*)
- What is Paul's purpose in writing this letter? (*To verify his apostleship and the gospel message of justification by faith in Christ alone*)
- Why did Jesus give Himself for our sins? **(1:4)**
Paul is amazed that they are turning from to a different and perverted gospel **(1:6-7)**
- This gospel is not according to man, or from man, but directly from Jesus Christ **(1:11-12)**
- Paul refused to allow Titus to be circumcised, as some false brethren desired **(2:3-5)**.
For what purpose did Paul refuse? How did Titus’ situation differ from Timothy’s ? (Acts 16:1-3)
Circumcision of a Jewish Christian as a customary matter was permissible; but circumcision imposed upon a Gentile as an element necessary for salvation was not!
- Paul confronted Peter to the face, because he would not eat with Gentiles when those from James came to Antioch. Peter's example of hypocrisy influenced other Jews, even Barnabas. **(2:11-14)**
- What is Paul's main argument? How did he live his life once he had died to the law? **(2:16-20)**
(1) One is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Christ (2) Having been crucified with Christ, he lives by faith in the Son of God who loved Him and gave Himself for him
- What did the Old Testament say that makes it evident no one is justified by the Law? **(3:11-12)**
- If the believer’s inheritance (as heirs) can be obtained based on a promise, why then the Law? **(3:19-24)**
- What happens to the racial, social and gender differences in Christ as they relate to salvation? **(3:28)**