Message Notes Welcome to Galatians

Introduction - Why Galatians?

A book that has changed history... and hopefully, us!

> New Message Series: Jesus + Nothing = Everything A study of Galatians

Today's Message: Welcome to Galatians Galatians 1:1-5

Two Cups and a String

Who wrote this letter? (Galatians 1:1a)

Acts 9:1-22

How does Paul describe himself here? (Galatians 1:1b-2a)

Who is the letter to? (Galatians 1:2b) History of Galatia

When was the letter written?

To which part of the region of Galatia? Southern? (Acts 14:20b-25) Northern? (Acts 16:6, 18:23)

Where was Paul when he wrote it?

A Greeting (Galatians 1:3)

What does Paul want to clue them about? (Galatians 1:4-5)

Paul's Greetings Romans 1 Corinthians 1 Timothy

1. Jesus ALONE covers our sin

- 2. Jesus ALONE rescues us from evil
- 3. Jesus obeyed the Father
- 4. All Glory belongs to God

A thought as we embark on this study and move toward communion...

Gospel Application – "Will you allow Jesus + NOTHING to resonate with you this week?"

Scripture Passages (taken from the New International Version)

Galatians 1:1-5

¹Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—²and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Acts 9:1-22

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." ¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

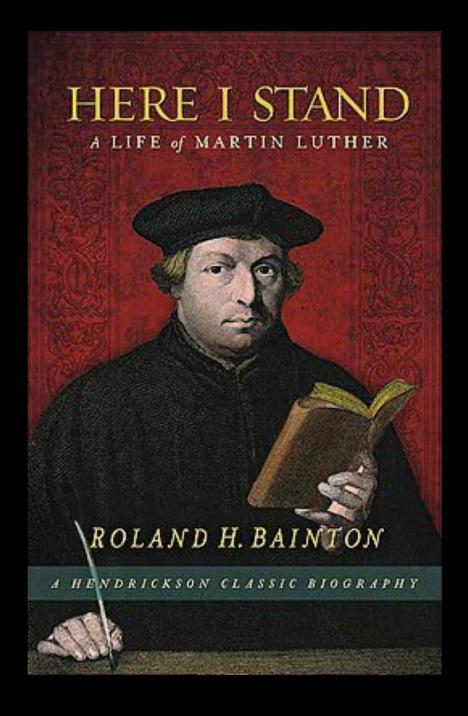












The epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine.



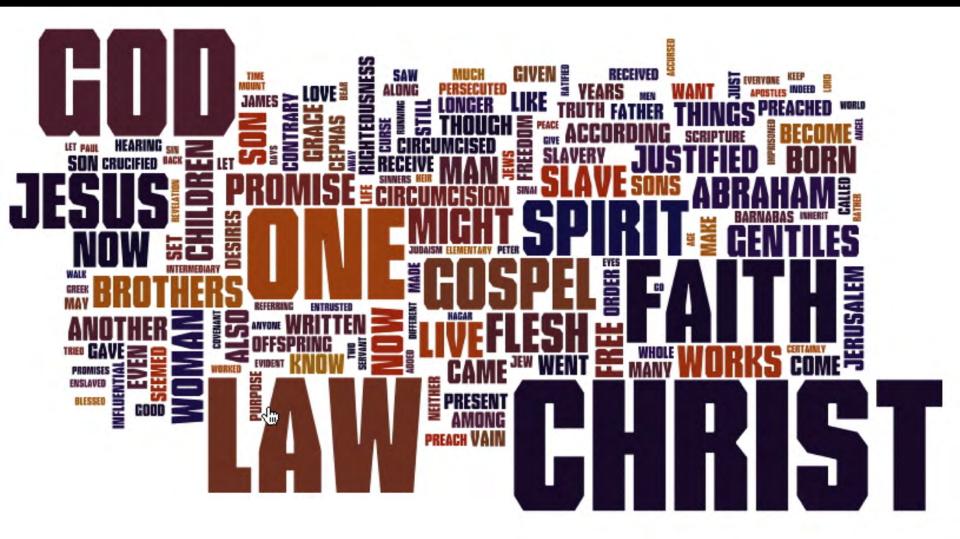
Welcome to

Galatians

"This was the pebble from the brook which, like another David, he went forth to meet the papal giant and smite him in the forehead. In this epistle Luther found the secret of his own deliverance. Taking this as his weapon, he plunged into the fearful conflict with the Papistry and religious materialism of his time."

> ~Professor Frederick Godet 19th C Theologian





The book of Galatians is dynamite. It is an explosion of joy and freedom which leaves us enjoying a deep significance, security and satisfaction – the life of blessing God calls His people into. Why? Because it brings us face to face with the gospel. It's very common in Christian circles to assume that "the gospel" is something mainly for non-Christians. We see it as a set of basic "ABC" doctrines that are the way in which someone enters the kingdom of God. We often assume that once we're converted, we don't need to hear or study or understand the gospel—we need more "advanced" material.

But in this short letter, Paul outlines the bombshell truth that the gospel is the A to Z of the Christian life. It is not only the way to enter the kingdom; it is the way to live as part of the kingdom. It is the way Christ transforms people, churches and communities. We're going to see Paul showing the young Christians in Galatia that their spiritual problem is not only caused by failing to live in obedience to God, but also by relying on obedience to Him. We're going to see him telling them that all they need — all they could ever need — is the gospel of God's unmerited favor to them through Christ's life, death and resurrection.

We're going to hear him solving their issues not through telling them to "be better Christians", but by calling them to live out the implications of the gospel. We're going to watch Paul challenge them, and us, with the simple truth that the gospel is not just the ABC of Christianity, but the A to Z—that Christians need the gospel just as much as non-Christians.

~ Timothy Keller, *Galatians For You*. The Good Book Company. (from introductory pages)

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JESUS

NOTHING

Welcome to Galatians

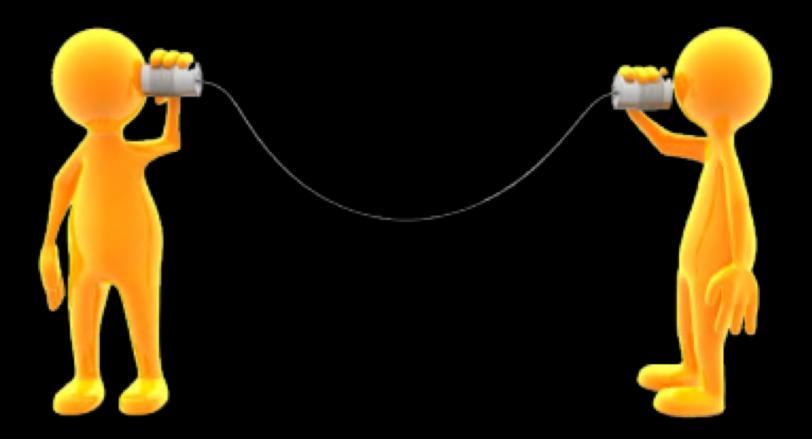
Galatians 1:1-5

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Welcome to Galatians

Galatians 1:1-5 To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Welcome to Galatians Who wrote this letter?

Galatians 1:1a

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Welcome to Galatians How does Paul describe himself here?

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Welcome to Galatians Who is the letter to?

Galatians 1:2b To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



The people who first became known as Galatians came from the barbarian tribal stock known as Celts, one branch of which Julius Caesar knew in France as the Gauls. Some of these had invaded Macedonia and later Asia Minor in the third century B.C. in order to establish themselves there. In popular speech, these Gauls were distinguished from the West-European Gauls by the term "Gallo-Graecians," from which the name "Galatians" comes. At first the tribes were dramatically successful. They laid the whole country west of the Taurus river under tribute and, according to Livy (*History of Rome*, 38:16), even forced the Syrian kings to submit for a time to their terms. However, in 230 B.C., the Gauls were decisively defeated by Attalus I, king of Pergamum, and then were increasingly confined to a small territory in the north. This region was the first to become known as Galatia. Its principle cities were Ancyra (now the capital of modern Turkey), Pessinus, and Tavium.

With the coming of the Romans, conditions did not change markedly for these Galatians. True, they were conquered by the Roman Consul Manlius in 189 B.C., but even then they were permitted to maintain much of their independence and to be governed in part by their own princes. This system worked so well from the Roman point of view that later, upon the death of Amyntas, the territory of the Galatians was incorporated into a much larger Roman province to which the old ethnic name, Galatia, was extended. This province, established in 25 B.C., contained the districts of Lycaonia and Isauria as well as portions of Pisidia and Phrygia. In particular, the cities of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Derbe and Lystra – cities Paul visited on his first missionary journey – belonged to it.

~ James Montgomery Boice, *Galatians*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Romans through Galatians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), page 412.

When was this letter written?

To which part of the Galatian region?

Where was Paul when he wrote it?



Thomas V. Brisco, Holman Bible Atlas, Holman Reference (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), page 245.

Acts 14:20b-25

The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. ²¹They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²²strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. ²³Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. ²⁴After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, ²⁵and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

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- Paul says they are "so quickly deserting..." the gospel message
- IF THIS IS RIGHT, GALATIANS COULD HAVE EVEN BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE ACTS 15 or SHORTLY AFTER (48-52AD)



Thomas V. Brisco, Holman Bible Atlas, Holman Reference (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), page 246.

Acts 16:6

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.



Thomas V. Brisco, Holman Bible Atlas, Holman Reference (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), page 249.

Acts 18:23

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

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- IF THIS IS RIGHT, GALATIANS WAS WRITTEN LATER, DURING THE 2nd or 3rd JOURNIES (52-58 AD)

When was this letter written?

To which part of the Galatian region?

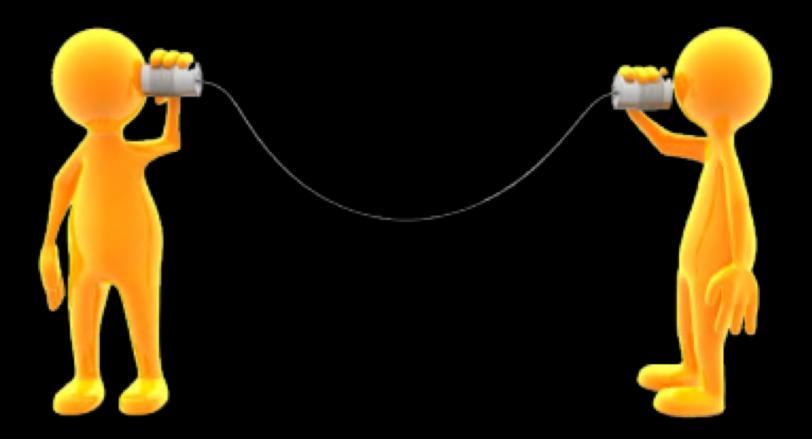
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Where was Paul when he wrote it?

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Where was Paul when he wrote it? Most say he was in Corinth



Welcome to Galatians A Greeting

Galatians 1:3 To the churches in Galatia:

Welcome to Galatians What does Paul want to clue them about?

Galatians 1:4-5

To the churches in Galatia:

Paul's "Greetings"

1 Corinthians

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's "Greetings"

Romans

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of $God - {}^{2}$ the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's "Greetings"

1 Timothy

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, ²To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Welcome to GalatiansWhat does Paul want to clue them about?1. Jesus ALONE covers our sin

Galatians 1:4-5

To the churches in Galatia:

Welcome to GalatiansWhat does Paul want to clue them about?2. Jesus ALONE rescues us from evil

Galatians 1:4-5

To the churches in Galatia:

Welcome to Galatians

What does Paul want to clue them about?

3. God the Son accomplishes this by obeying God the Father

Galatians 1:4-5

To the churches in Galatia:

Welcome to GalatiansWhat does Paul want to clue them about?4. Sola Deo Gloria

Galatians 1:4-5

To the churches in Galatia:

Why bring up that we are sinners, Paul?

Galatians 1:4-5 To the churches in Galatia:

"Let us therefore arm ourselves with these and similar sentences of the Holy Scriptures, so that when the devil tells us we are sinners and therefore damned, we may answer, "Because you say I am a sinner, I will be righteous and saved." Then the devil will say, "No, you will be damned." And I will reply, "No, for I fly to Christ who has given himself for my sins. Therefore, Satan, you will not prevail against me when you try to terrify me by telling me how great my sins are and try to reduce me to heaviness, distrust, despair, hatred, contempt, and blasphemy. On the contrary, when you say I am a sinner, you give me armor and weapons against yourself, so that I can cut your throat with your

~ Martin Luther, *Luther's Commentary on Galatians*, Crossway Classic Commentaries (page 40-41).

own sword and tread you under my feet, for Christ died for sinners. Moreover, you yourself preach God's glory to me, for you remind me of God's fatherly love toward me, that 'he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). And whenever you object that I am a sinner, you remind me of the benefit of Christ my Redeemer. It is on his shoulders, not mine, that all my sins lie, for 'the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all . . . for the transgression of my people he was stricken' (Isaiah 53:6, 8). So when you say I am a sinner, you do not terrify me but comfort me immeasurably."

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