

Overview of Galatians

Why study this book:

The Christian life from beginning to end is the result of God's grace and is empowered by the work of the Holy Spirit. Galatians is a declaration of freedom from the condemnation of sin and from a performance mindset. Looking to Christ, sinners can be freely counted righteous in him. Perhaps nowhere in the Bible is this clearer than in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Author and Date:

The author is Paul, the apostle and church planter. Paul pens this letter to the church at Galatia in the late 40s A.D.

Setting and Background:

The Galatians were probably members of the churches of the southern region of the Roman province of Galatia. Paul is more critical of his audience here than in any of his other letters, because they were allowing false teachers to obscure the Gospel itself.

Main Point:

To protect the truth of the Gospel, which declares what God has done in Christ for sinners. The Gospel cannot be supplemented by human effort or obedience. Rescue from sin must be all of grace. And this is what God has done in Jesus.

Outline:

- I. Opening
 - A. Galatians 1:1-10 - The only true message.

- II. Indirect Appeal: Paul's Ministry and the Gospel
 - A. Galatians 1:11-24 - Paul called by God.
 - B. Galatians 2:1-10 - Paul accepted by the Apostles. Taking a stand.
 - C. Galatians 2:11-21 - Paul opposes Peter.

- III. Direct Appeals to the Galatians
 - A. Galatians 3:1-14 - Faith or observance of the law?
 - B. Galatians 3:15-25 - The Law and the Promise.
 - C. Galatians 3:26-4:20 - Sons of God and known by God.
 - D. Galatians 4:21-5:15 - Hagar and Sarah. Freedom in Christ.

IV. Life in the Spirit and Love

A. Galatians 5:16-26 - Fruit of the Spirit.

V. Final Warning

A. Galatians 6:1-18 - Helping each other. Reaping what you sow. A New Creation.

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1. Galatians – John MacArthur (Bible Study)
 2. New American Commentary: Galatians
 3. The Quest Study Bible
 4. The NLT Study Bible
 5. The Gospel Transformation Bible
 6. The Maxwell Leadership Bible
 7. Believer's Bible Commentary