

Galatians 1

Introduction:

-Find a Bible map and locate Galatia.

-**What congregations were located in Galatia?** Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia (*Acts 13.13-14, 14.16, 21-24*)

-These congregations were established on Paul's first missionary journey

Setting:

-This was an all-out emergency letter, a last minute attempt to pull the Christians there away from false doctrine

-Paul had to be rather rough on them (not like *Romans, Philemon*, etc.)

Galatians 1.1-5

This was a classic first century opening:

1. The person sending the letter
2. The person to whom the letter was addressed
3. A word of greeting

V 1 – **Where did Paul rank himself as an Apostle?** Least (*1 Corinthians 15.9*)

-**Why?** Because he had persecuted the church

-But he still considered himself to be an Apostle

-**Who made him an Apostle?** Jesus Christ and God the Father

-**How had God the Father proven himself?** Raising Jesus from the dead

V 2 – **Letter addressed to?** Christians in Galatia

V 3 – Grace (xpapís) and peace (shalom) – to both the Gentile and Hebrew Christians

V 4 – **What did Jesus do for us?** Gave himself for our sins

Notice "this present evil age"

-**What about today?** Give examples of the current morals in United States

V 5 – Glory to God the Father

Galatians 1.6-10

V 6 – **What was so amazing to Paul?** That these congregations had left the faith so quickly

-**What had they left the truth for?** A different gospel

V 7 – **Is there really such a thing as a different gospel?** No – really only one gospel ("good news")

-**What did these false teachers want to do?** Disturb people and distort the gospel (because of their evil motives)

V 8 – Notice "we" – Meaning: Don't trust the man, but place your trust in the gospel

-**Fate of person who teaches false gospel?** Accused in the eyes of God

-So this was not a minor thing that was happening in Galatia

V 9 – Why did Paul repeat himself? Emphasis

V 10 – What were these false teachers trying to do? Please men

-And Paul? Please God

-In many denominational churches, the main goal is to do the same thing (just to be pleasing in the eyes of our society)

Galatians 1.11-17

V 11 – Where did Paul not receive his gospel from? From men

V 12 – Where had Paul gotten this gospel? From a revelation of Jesus Christ

-We are not to add to the gospel of Christ (as Joseph Smith did in the *Book of Mormon*)

V 13 – What does Paul confess about his background? He had been a terrible persecutor of the church and had tried to destroy the church

-Why go over these things? Paul was not just in this for the money, etc.

V 14 – Paul's record as a Jew? Excellent (had everything going for him)

V 15 – But God wanted to use Paul

-When was Paul “set apart” for God's purposes? In the womb

-Application? Abortion is murder – God respects life even in the womb

V 15-16 – What had God chosen Paul to do in life? Preach the gospel among the Gentiles

V 16-17 – What did Paul do when he was first converted? Went to Arabia (1200 miles south of Damascus) and then returned to Damascus

-What did he do in Arabia? We don't know for sure, but probably he got his thoughts straightened out, he studied the Old Testament Scriptures on Jesus, etc.

-He had to rebuild his whole system of thought

Galatians 1.18-24

V 18-19 – What did Paul do three years later? Go to Jerusalem

-Who did he see there? Peter and James

-See *Beacon Bible Commentary*, IX, 38 for resolution here – check Robert Taylor and W. Barclay and *Gospel Advocate Commentary on Galatians*

V 20 – Paul assured them that this was the truth

V 21 – Where did Paul go next? Syria and Cilicia

-Cilicia – location for Tarsus (Paul's hometown)

-Why go back home? Continuing to collect his thoughts

V 22 – **Why did the Christians in Judea not know what Paul looked like?** No photos (remember how Judas had to identify Jesus)

V 23 – **What rumor was circulating about Paul?** He had changed from persecutor to gospel preacher

V 24– **Reaction?** Happy because of it

Lessons from this chapter:

Trust *Galatians 1* – Paul had proven his sincerity and would never compromise, and we should never stray from the gospel of Christ

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