

TRUTH

## GALATIANS

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

### Considerations:

- 1. When did Paul write this letter?
- 2. Why did Paul write this letter?

### Outline:

- 1.Personal: Paul and his gospel (chs. 1-2)
  - A. Greetings and a rebuke (1:1-9)
  - B. Paul's self-defense (1:10-2:21)
- 2.Doctrinal: What it means to be "justified" (chs. 3-4)
  - A. Paul's defense of justification (ch. 3)
  - B. Paul's illustrations explaining justification (ch. 4)
- 3. Practical: Living out our justification (chs. 5-6)
  - A. Freedom in Christ (5:1-15)
  - B. Life in the Spirit (5:16-25)
  - C. Loving one another (ch. 6)

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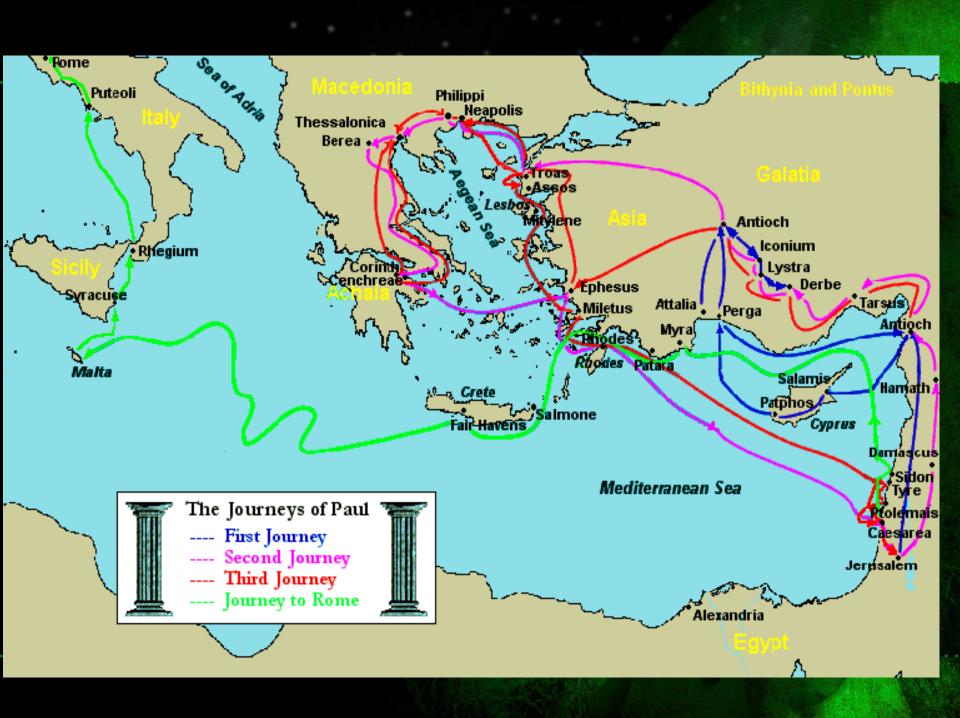
## When did Paul write Galatians?

### Conclusions:

- Galatians 2:1-10 does not seem to be describing the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15.
- Paul never mentions the Council in the book of Galatians, which seems like a *big* omission.
- The visit of Galatians 2:1-10 is more likely to be identified with Acts 11:29-30 (Antioch).
- This places Galatians shortly before the Jerusalem Council in AD 49.

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## Who did Paul write Galatians to?



## Considerations:

- Paul wrote to multiple churches in the region of Galatia (1:2)
  - Galatia was a region in modern-day Turkey, and included such biblical cities as
    - Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:14-50),
    - Iconium (13:51-14:7),
    - Lystra (14:8-19), and
    - Derbe (14:20-21).

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## Why did Paul write Galatians?

• Galatians is one of the foundational doctrinal books in the New Testament.

• Confronting a false gospel which taught righteousness through observance of the Mosaic Law,

• Paul clearly demonstrates that fellowship (not relationship) with God is based on faith and righteous living on a life enabled by the Holy Spirit.

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## Why did Paul write Galatians?

•Shortly after Paul's ministry in that region, *Judaizers* arrived in the churches and began to teach the new converts that adherence to the Law of Moses and the practice of circumcision were required.

- •They also disputed Paul's authority because of his views about the Mosaic Law.
- •Paul writes these churches to defend his apostleship and correct this false gospel.

They were teaching that all Christians must not only believe in Jesus, but keep the Old Testament law of Moses as well.

#### GREETING

1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Note the immediate defense of his apostleship

2 and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

#### GREETING

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

4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

5 to whom *be* the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## DON'T MESS WITH THE GOSPEL

Galatians 1:6-9

#### A 'different gospel' 1:6-9

*Metatithesthe* = used of military desertion or a traitor; the desertion was in process but not complete

6 I marvel that ye are so soon **removed** from him that **called** [*kaleo* = **called** for a purpose] you **into** the grace **of** Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

#### A 'different gospel' 1:6-9

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, **let him be accursed**.



### Origin of Paul's gospel 1:10-2:10

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of **me is not after man**.

12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.



13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

# Defense of Paul's apostleship 1:10-2:10

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; **immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood**:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

23 But they had heard only, That "he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed."

24 And they glorified God in me.



1 Then **fourteen years** after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our **liberty which we have in Christ Jesus**, that they might bring us into bondage:



5 To whom we gave place by subjection, **no**, **not for an hour**; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.



6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:



7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

#### Closing Thoughts

Think about it. What 'gospel' have you received and believed? Is it good news or bad news?

Have you allowed the devil or false brethren to bring you into bondage by thinking you are only accepted by God when you are good enough?

Salvation is on the basis of grace and accessed through faith in His promise.

Any other 'gospel' is anathema.

