

Galatians

Introduction

Let's open with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Thank you again for another time that you give us to us. Our dependence is not on what we produce, but on your Spirit through your word. We pray that you would bless us with this important book as we begin with this new study. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen!

So we will begin as we usually do with a brief outline of the bible.

The way the Old Testament is booked, we have the English bible arrangement which is according to the Septuagint and is the Law, History, Writings, and Prophets.

But in the Hebrew bible, they have the same books but they are arranged differently. They only have three sections, the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

The Law is called the Torah. The Prophets is called the Neviim. And the Writings are called the Ketuvim.

The Jews have taken the first consonant of each word, "T" for Torah, "N" for Neviim, and "K" for Ketuvim and inserted some vowels between them and they call the entire Old Testament the Tanak.

And they have three sections where we in our English bibles have four.

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Old Testament (Covenant)			
Original Language: Hebrew/Aramaic			
Contents: History/Prophecy			
English Bible Arrangement (according to the Septuagint)			
Law Genesis-Deuteronomy	History Joshua-Esther	Writings Psalms-Song of Solomon	Prophets Isaiah-Malachi
Hebrew Bible Arrangement			
Law Genesis-Deuteronomy	Prophets Joshua-Malachi (including Ruth, Lamentations & Daniel)	Writings Job-II Chronicles (including Ruth, Lamentations & Daniel)	
Torah	Neviim	Ketuvim	
תּוֹרָה	נְבִיאִים	כְּתוּבִים	

Now for the New Testament, again the original language was Greek. It contains History and Doctrine. The Old Testament contains History and Prophecy.

The Old Testament prophecy is in Hebrew. And Hebrew is a general language. That's why even the Hebrew people themselves argue over the meanings, definitions, and fulfillments of prophecy.

We have the exactness of the New Testament to make application of the fulfillment of the prophecies of the old.

And it also works in reverse of that. I'm one of those narrow minded people that when somebody comes out with a "new teaching," or a "new revelation," no matter how good or how appealing it is in the human sense, I always look to the New Testament and say did the apostles in the early church ever teach that?

People come out with books with special prayers to say and what to expect from them, and it's just not taught in the New Testament.

So the question always comes up, what in the Old Testament applies to us today as New Covenant, New Testament people?

It's whatever the New Testament writers have brought over, as they apply it, and as they present its meaning.

Isaiah Chapter 53 is a good example of that because the Lord died for our sicknesses and by His stripes we are healed, and people use that for physical healing today.

But Peter quoted that text and said that that text applies to a person who has been returned to the bishop and overseer of his soul, that through His stripes we have been healed from sin.

That doesn't mean that God does not physically heal or heal sickness. It just means that that verse does not mean that, because the New Testament writers taught it and applied it to what it means.

I can't go beyond that. So whatever is in the Old Testament that is brought over for the New Testament, is the New Testament writers will be the ones who have quoted it and brought it over and explained it.

If the Old Testament is used, it has to be used in context. I love the Old Testament too, especially the prophets. But it has to be done in context. There's very little that applies to the United States of America in the prophets. You have to take it for to whom and from whom the prophecy was given.

But it is interesting that in the New Testament, the first five books, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, make up the history section.

And then there's the doctrine and teaching section that goes from the book of Romans all the way through to Revelation, and there's two sections there, Paul's writings, and then the Jewish literature, Hebrews through Revelation.

It is important to understand that the New Testament has been put together for us as a foolproof reference work to the truth.

Paul said in Galatians Chapter 1 Verses 8 and 9, which we will be taking soon, but if anybody preaches a gospel that is different than Paul's, let them be accursed.

And we're going to see that applied to some false teachers that came into the area of Galatia.

So he sets himself up. Everyone is going to be judged according to Paul's gospel. It sounds rather arrogant. But at the same time, he has been chosen by God to reveal the mysteries of the church of Christ to the church.

He's also connected to the Lord in that in Galatians 1:11-18, he said he did not receive his gospel through the teachings of man, but rather directly through Jesus Christ, as Christ revealed Himself to Paul as he was out in the Arabian Desert and back into Damascus which was right on the edge of what was called the Arabian Desert at that time.

So the Lord gave Paul the gospel. Therefore, the teachings of the Lord and the teachings of Paul should be the same. In fact, not only are they the same, but Paul's teachings amplify and explain and go into more detail than some of the teachings that Jesus gave in the gospels.

And many times that Jesus taught in the gospels, He didn't give the answer. He didn't tell what it means.

So we have to take it in context. And we have that safety valve because whatever conclusions we come up with as far as what Jesus is teaching in the gospels, we have about 63 years of teaching from Romans through Revelation of what they taught in the early church.

And so we can check our understanding to see if we understand that particular issue or teaching correctly. We just put it together.

Paul's books, Romans through Philemon, they are not in chronological order, but they are in order. He did say to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

Romans, the first book, happens to be for doctrine. 1 and 2 Corinthians for reproof. Galatians for correction. And then instruction in righteousness would be Ephesians through Philemon.

So it's interesting that he would say that to Timothy, and his books are in categories that match his instruction to Timothy.

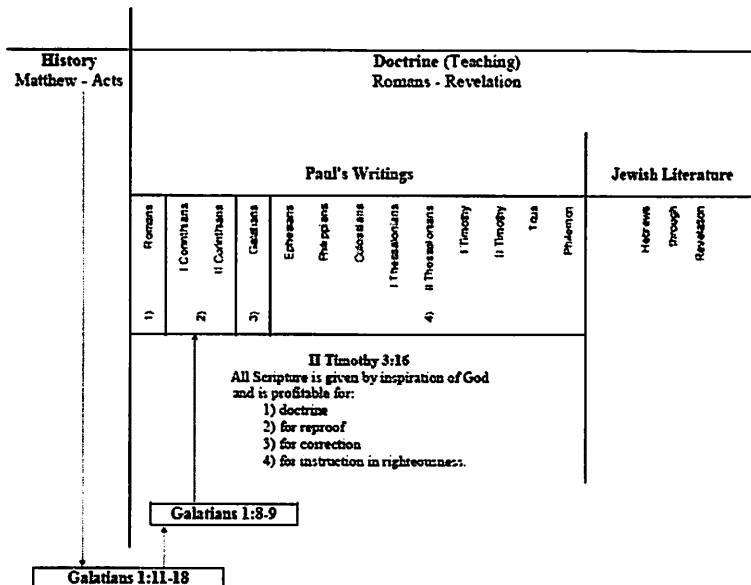
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New Testament (Covenant)

Original Language: Greek

Contents: History/Doctrine (Teaching)



I. About the Author

Paul - his inscription is on all thirteen of his letters.

II. To Whom It Was Written

To several churches in Asia Minor in the region of Galatia.

III. The History of Galatia

The Celtic people migrated from Gaul in Modern France around the third century B.C.

The Romans conquered the Gauls in 189 B.C.

Galatia became a Roman Province in 25 B.C.

The name Galatia came to describe the entire Roman province.

The churches in southern Galatia were established during Paul's first missionary journey recorded in Acts 13:14-14:23.

After Paul's first missionary journey, the Jerusalem Council met around 49 A.D. to discuss the problem of the Gentiles and the Law.

After Paul's first missionary journey and after the decision of the Jerusalem Council, false teachers called Judaizers came into Galatia and infiltrated the churches with their false teaching.

Shortly after the Jerusalem Council, Paul wrote his letter to the churches in the region of Galatia.

IV. The Theme of Galatians

Salvation is by grace through faith alone.

V. Why It Was Written

Because the false teachers attacked Paul's ministry and message.

The Judaizers professed to be believers in Jesus as Messiah.

Their doctrinal approach was the Gentiles are not in a position of Sons of the Covenant to receive the promises of God until they became Jews and they follow the Law.

The first law that Gentiles must keep is circumcision.

VI. How It Was Written

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The form of the letter of Galatians was different from all of the other letters written by Paul. Galatians is the only letter not containing a commendation.

It is the only letter written by Paul that is addressed to more than one church.

VII. The Importance of the Book of Galatians

Galatians is a shorter version of Romans.

Romans is considered the Constitution of the Christian Faith.

Galatians is considered to be the Declaration of Independence of the Christian Faith.

VIII. Section Outline of the Book of Galatians

Galatians Chapters 1-2 The Defense of Paul's Ministry and Message

Galatians Chapters 3-4 The Doctrine of Justification

Galatians Chapters 5-6 The Doctrine of Sanctification

Let's close with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

We are so thankful for your word. We pray that by your Spirit we might understand the truth of your word and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We look forward to beginning this new book. We ask that you will continue to lead us and draw us to you. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen!