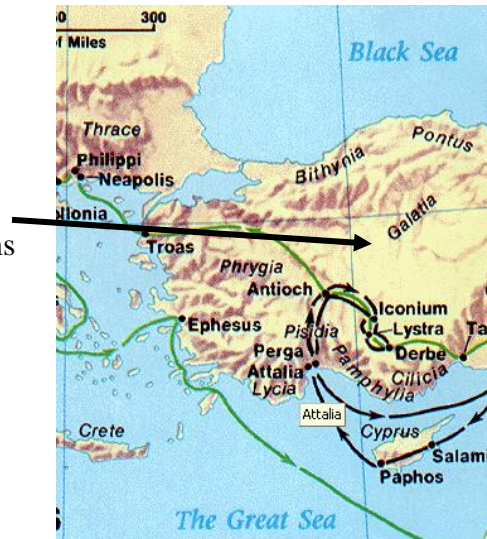


GALATIANS, EPISTLE TO THE

This is a small letter from Paul to the people of Galatia that is autobiographical and proclaims the doctrine of justification and validation by faith in God's ability to redeem us alone.

Galatia is in Asia Minor, but no specific place seems to be mentioned. It is now modern Turkey. Paul traveled through Galatia three out of four of his missionary journeys.

The word Galatia literally means "Celts". In the third century BC many Celts moved into Greece.



(Fig 1)

Galatians 1

3.5.2007

Gal 1:4

Paul was writing that it is only through the blood of Christ that one is saved and by no other means can one be saved. Why did he write this? It is presumable to think that at this time there were those who were attacking this doctrine and suggesting that people must also be circumcised as well. God gave himself on the cross because he wanted to and for no other reason and had he not done this, then there would be no means of salvation for us.

Gal 1:6

This is further proof that the church was "quickly deserting" the gospel doctrine even though it was not long after they heard it. The "one who called" I think is referring to God over the Holy Spirit and Jesus. The Holy Spirit seems to convict and give spiritual gifts, Jesus seems to take the role as our advocate and he is the one we can relate to, and it is God's role to do the calling. Barnes sites, 1 Thess 2:12; 5:24; 2 Thess 2:14; 2 Tim 1:9 as evidence that God is the one who does the calling.

Gal 1:7-8

The Only true gospel is, "Jesus was God in the flesh, that he died on the cross to pay for our sins and was raised three days later thus conquering death, and that whomever repents of their sins and believes this with their heart and confesses it will spend eternity in heaven." Anyone who teaches something contrary to this, may a curse be upon them.

Gal 1:10

In his former life Paul sought out to please man, "now" he aims to please God.

Gal 1:11

Greek text: "Not according to man" (from Barnes' Notes)

Gal 1:12

Why did he write this? People were probably saying that Paul must have heard this from other people, because he never personally knew Jesus when he walked on Earth as a human. Personal Question? Is Jesus still a 100% man?

Gal 1:17

Arabia is just south of Damascus and not a far distance. Luke did not mention this trip in Acts, but Luke never claimed to have had an exhausted history of the early church.

Galatians 2

3.8.2007

Gal 2:1

Titus was an uncircumcised Greek (Gal 2:3), this would be a big deal with the Jews who believed that one must be circumcised to be saved and that is why Paul likely took him. Titus went with Paul frequently on his travels; he was employed by him; he was left by him in Crete to set in order the things that were missing, and to ordain elders there (Titus 1:5). According to 2 Tim 4:10, he went into Dalmatia and later returned to the island Crete (Fig. 1), where it is passed down through church history that he spread the gospel in the neighboring islands and died at the age of 94-Calmet. (However, I can not confirm these things.)

Barnabas, who was originally called Joses or Joseph (Acts 4:36), literal means "son of prophecy" (bar, "son"; nebhu'ah, "prophecy"). He was a Levite from the island of Cyprus, and cousin of the evangelist John Mark. Paul and Barnabas traveled together during Paul's first missionary journey, but split up after they had an argument about Mark. Mark had failed to complete Paul's first mission journey with them; he left half way though it, and Paul did not feel that he was trustworthy enough to bring a long for the second journey. Barnabas felt other wise and took Mark with him to Cyprus, an island south of Greece (Fig. 1).

Gal 2:2

He went secretly because he was trying to avoid the accusations that he received the gospel from Paul versus God.

Gal 2:11-14

In short Peter hung out with Gentiles and ate Gentile food (God had instructed him to do so to show that the Gentiles were not under the special laws that the Jews were under), but after some Jews arrived he stopped hanging out with them because of Jew peer pressure. Paul confronted Peter on this and told him that all are equal in God's eyes. This is a big deal, because Peter was the visual leader and people would follow his lead.

Gal 2:17

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” Rom 6:1-2 NIV

Galatians 3

3.9.2007

Gal 3:1

“Foolish” in Gr. is anoetos (an-o'-ay-tos), which means “unintelligent”. He is surprised that false teachers could influence them so easily. “Bewitched” in Gr. is baskaino (baskah'-ee-no), which means to be “fascinated”. There are several people who are on TV, Benny Hein, who preach a false Gospel and fascinate multitudes of people.

Gal 3:6

Abraham was saved by his faith; not by his works. *“What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Rom 4:3 NIV*

Gal 3:10

Curse in Gr. is atara (kat-ar'-ah), which means imprecation, implying a sense of punishment or destruction. None of us can keep the Ten Commandments, thus we all fall under the curse.

Gal 3:16

“Seed” meaning descendants

Gal 3:17

The “The law, introduced 430 years later,” is talking about when Abraham was given the promise that his seed would save the world and the 430 years Israelites spent in Egypt (Exodus).

Gal 3:24

The law leads us to Christ by showing us that we cannot live a perfect life.

Gal 3:28

Some argue that Christianity lowers the status of women, but it clearly teaches that all people are valued the same; just their roles are different.

Galatians 4

3.12.2007

Gal 4:1

Like slaves, children don't have a real say about life.

Gal 4:4

Like a child who grows to be an adult and has the freedom that adults enjoy, Christians also enjoy this freedom and are no longer under the law, because of Christ's death and resurrection.

Gal 4:6

Abba (ab-bah') is the actual Aramaic origin and is transliteration like the word baptism. Abba means Father and is used to express affection rather than formality.

Gal 4:9

“known by” in Gr. ginosko (ghin-occe'-ko); to know deeply/intimately

Gal 4:12

He became like them as far as he adapted to their gentile culture and now he wants them to adapt to his culture, the culture of faith in God.

Gal 4:16

“Is my telling you the truth in regard to the tendency of the doctrines which you have embraced, and the character of those who have led you astray, and your own error, a proof that I have ceased to be your friend?” (from Barnes' Notes)

It was his loving heart for these people that drove Paul to warn/correct them of the dangerous road they were on, but they did not want to hear the truth so they got angry with him and cut him off. “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kiss” Prov 27:6 NIV

Gal 4:17

Not much different than from today's cults (Mormonism).

Gal 4:19

Notice that childbirth is used to describe great pain. The end times are referred to being as painful as having childbearing pain.

Gal 4:20-31

This text is referencing Gen 16-21

Hagar, an Egyptian slave, and her son, Ishmael, represent the severity of being under the bondage of the law. They were treated as servants and not as family. Israel at this time was still living under the Law of Moses.

Isaac was born to a free woman, Sarah, and was treated as a son rather than a servant. He represents living under the freedom of the gospel.

Interestingly enough, Ishmael was born because Abraham tried to fulfill the promise given to him from God. This is much like the efforts of man trying to meet the standards

of God's law to enter heaven. However, Isaac was given to Abraham by God to fulfill his promise given to Isaac. This is much like how God's promise to man that he would provide a way, through the gospel, to heaven.

Gal 4:24

Understand that Paul is clear in relating that this is an allegory. That means it is a mental picture based on real historical facts that explains a concept or idea. The Greeks were famous for doing this. The Greek word that is used here is "allegoreoo", meaning to be taken figuratively. This is the only time this word is used in the NT.

Gal 4:27

"For it is written:" is referencing Isa 54:1. The barren woman, the text here appears to be suggesting that she has no husband, who had no children, represents the gentile world that was forsaken and had no true children of God. The crying out represents the barren woman's joy. Why is she so joyous? She is because she knows that she is being included in God's plan and will have more children than the other women who have husbands neighboring her. In this case, that would be the Jews. Interestingly enough this may have been foreign idea to most, since many of the first believers were of Jewish descent. However, at this time there have been more gentiles who have accepted Christ, than Jews who have accepted Christ.

Gal 4:30

Paul is referring to the address that Sarah made to Abraham to cast out Haggard. In this case, Paul is saying to cast the law out and embrace the gospel. Man can either live in bondage to the law or live in freedom in Christ.

Galatians 5

4.20.2007

Gal 5:1

The word "Burdened" in Greek is enecho (en-ekh'-o), which means to be ensnared or trapped.

Gal 5:3

In the context he is not saying circumcision is wrong, in fact God tells every Jewish house to circumcise every boy (Lev. 12:3). Rather, Paul is saying that if you believe that circumcision is necessary for justification, then you have been lead astray by false teachers.

Gal 5:5

It is not by our works, but by the works of Jesus that we are saved.

Gal 5:9

A proverbial expression commonly used during the day Paul wrote this. In other words, "a little can go a long way." A positive attitude from person can go a long way in changing the attitude of those around you. A little false teaching can spread like cancer

and affect many. In this case, I believe Paul is referring to a few false teachers perverting the faith of many.

Gal 5:10

“...whoever he may be.” Paul is saying that he does not know who he is and that he is not mentioning names or accusing anyone by name, but rather he is only stating the obvious principle that every man will be judged by their own deeds and held responsible for what ever he has done.

Gal 5:12

Paul is simply saying that he wishes that the creators of these errors and conflict were excluded from the church.

Gal 5:14

The second Great Commandment. (Matt 22:37)

Gal 5:15

The word used here daknoo “bite” can also mean to sting. If these groups keep fighting amongst each other like wild beasts, they will destroy the spirituality and happiness of each other; their characters would be ruined and the church be overthrown. Division and bickering in today’s church posses the same treat.

Gal 5:16

As one grows closer to God, he finds that he has more strength to deal with temptations. Ironically, one who is often doing work for God will often find that they get busy doing work for God and thus find less time to walk and talk with God, thus they fall into temptation. This is a pastor’s bane.

Gal 5:17

Our flesh nature, that has been corrupted because of sin, and spirit nature, that is pure because it was cleansed by the Holy Spirit because of what Christ did, will conflict till we die. That is why we have to die, so that the internal conflicts we have will come to an end. That is why God creates a new body for us; to replace the old corrupted one.

Gal 5:19

“Sexual Immorality” in Greek is porneia (por-ni'-ah), which means harlotry (including adultery and incest). The following word “impurity” refers to other physical and moral impure acts that are not covered under sexual immorality.

Gal 5:22

Often time people will comment that they have the “fruit of the spirit of _____”. However, notice that verse 22 does not say “fruits” of the spirit, rather it says “fruit” of the spirit. There is only one fruit of the spirit, not many, and that fruit includes everything mentioned in verse 22-23. Thus, if you have accepted Christ, then all these aspects in your life should be developing.

Gal 5:26

This is a warning for all Christian churches to heed, regardless of their denominational background. Work together and makes us more effective for Christ, working separately diminishes our efforts and works in favor of those who oppose God.

Galatians 6

5.25.2007

Gal 6:1

There is a fine line between restoring someone gently and not restoring them at all. A church that does not correct a member of that church is not following scripture. A church that does it without love is in the same boat as the first church mentioned. Paul gives very clear instructions on how to restore an individual in 1 Corinthians chapter 5.

Gal 6:2

“Carry” in Greek is *bastazo* (bas-tad'-zo) which literal means we are to “endure” each other’s burdens. When part of the body hurts, the whole body responds to that hurt and tries to comfort it. When we carry each other’s burdens we fulfill the second greatest commandment in Matthew 22:39 and thus honor God and fulfill the great commandment in Matthew 22:38.

Gal 6:3-5

Another reason we should take care of each other is because when one is over confident in themselves thinking they are above being unable to sin, they are deceived and are usually the most susceptible to it.

However, a man who consistently self evaluates himself is more likely to be empathetic and compassionate for those around him and will receive eternal rewards in heaven. What if every Christian put their resources together to stomp out the AIDS virus? What are the possible results? Only recently with Bono and Rick Warren have I seen anyone trying to coordinate all Christians to accomplish something like this.

Gal 6:7

God knows our true motives even better than we.

Gal 6:8-10

If Christians took care of the genuine needs of others, then people would be attracted to that. This love starts within the church and the overflow of that love will then spill out to the surrounding community.

Gal 6:12

The individuals who are trying to convince the people that they must be circumcised are only doing this to avoid the persecution of the Jews. They were trying to blend Judaism with Christianity. Luther left the Catholic Church, because over time the Catholic Church blended Christianity with other pagan religions.

Gal 6:17

Everything that Paul does is for the glory of God, because of what Christ did for him on the cross:

1. Placed himself on the cross to bear our sins
2. Paid for our sins with his blood and death
3. Rose again so that we might believe