

**Reflections**

**On The Book Of**

**Galatians**

# The Author Of Galatians

The Apostle Paul Wrote Galatians

**Galatians 1:1** Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead

**Galatians 1:11-12** For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.  
<sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ

# The Author Of Galatians

**Galatians 1:15-17** But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup> was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

**2 Corinthians 12:3** And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —

**2 Corinthians 12:7a** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations ...

# Date Galatians Was Written

## Three Main Theories

Just before the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15: Around 48 AD\*\*

Soon after the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15: Around 50 AD

Many years after the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15: Around 58 AD

**Acts 15:1-2** But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”<sup>2</sup> And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

# Date Galatians Was Written

**Acts 15:6-11** The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, <sup>9</sup> & he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

# Reasons For Choosing the Earliest Date

- 1) Paul visits Jerusalem in Acts 9:26-30, next in Acts 11:27-30 and then in Acts 15 (The Council), but Galatians just records two visits to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-19 & 2:1-10), thus these two visits in Galatians are before Acts 15.
- 2) In Galatians 2:2 Paul talks about speaking privately to some influential leaders, but in Acts 15 the council seems to involve a much larger amount of people.
- 3) Paul never writes the results of the council in Acts 15 in the letter to the Galatians even though they fully agreed with his arguments regarding salvation and circumcision.

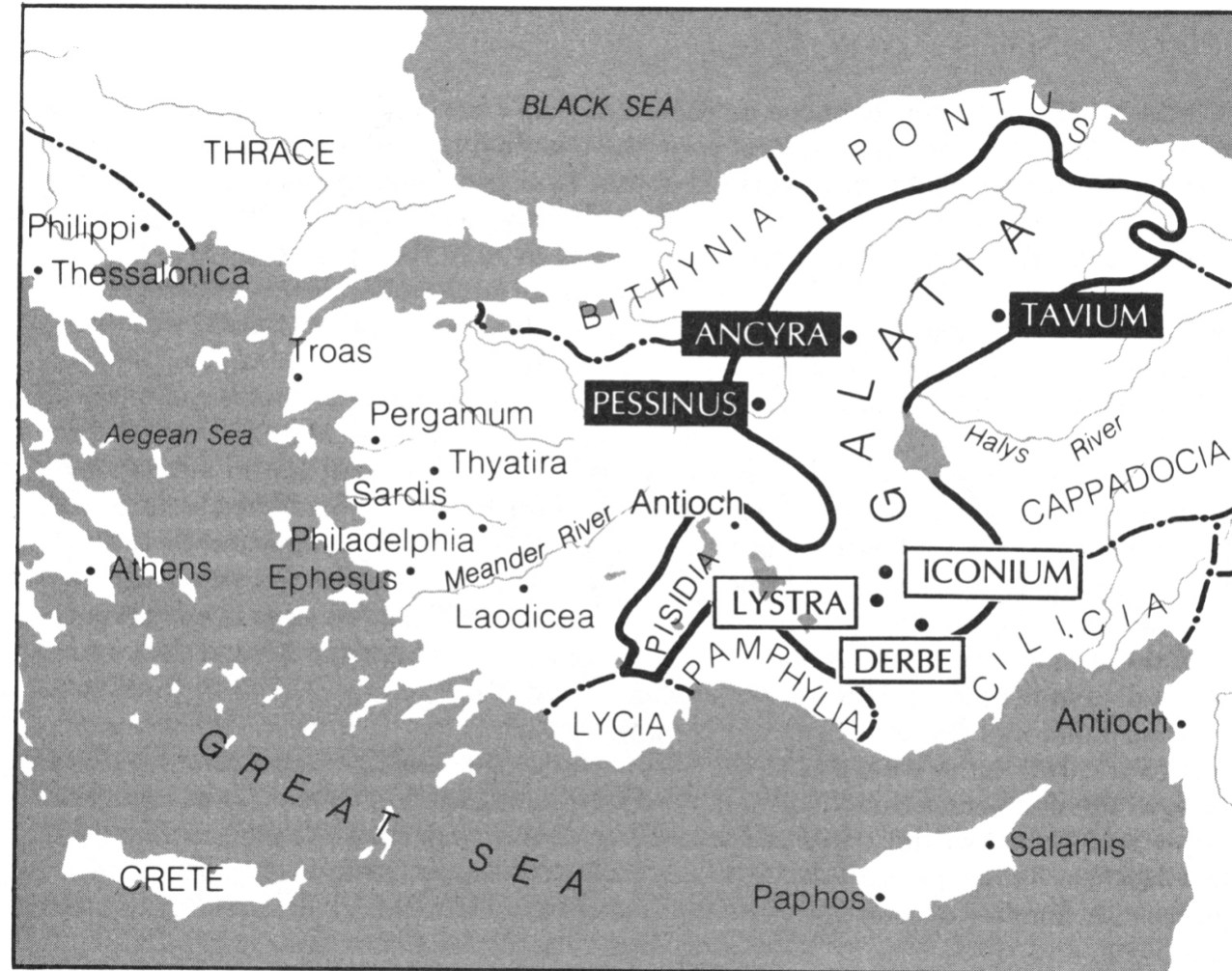
# The Audience Of Galatians

**Galatians 1:2b** ... To the churches of Galatia

**Acts 14:1** Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

**Acts 14:5-7** When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, <sup>6</sup> they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup> and there they continued to preach the gospel.

# The Audience Of Galatians



THE CITIES POSSIBLY INVOLVED IN THE "NORTHERN" AND "SOUTHERN" GALATIAN THEORIES.



# Place of Writing Galatians

**Acts 14:26-28** and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. <sup>27</sup> And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> And they remained no little time with the disciples.

**Galatians 2:11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

# Purpose for Writing Galatians

1) Paul after stating in Galatians 1:1 that he is an apostle from God goes on to prove his position and authority through chapter 2

2) **Galatians 1:6-9** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.<sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

# Giving Correction



**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

# Receiving Correction



# Things to Learn from Galatians

Correct others wisely after lovingly encouraging them

# Correct Others Wisely and Lovingly

**Romans 1:4b-9** ... Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup> that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

# Correct Others Wisely and Lovingly

**1 Corinthians 1:2b-7** ... to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Galatians 1:4-6** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.

# **Correct Others Wisely and Lovingly**

**2 Peter 1:20-21** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Studies have shown it takes at least 2 to 1 words of encouragement to words of correction for the listener to hear the instructions with a receptive heart. 3 to 1 or 4 to 1 is an even better ratio. The most important thing though is that there be a good relationship between the two people so the person getting corrected realizes the other person is saying these things out of love and for their benefit.**



# Things to Learn from Galatians

Correct others wisely after lovingly encouraging them

Speak the truth courageously to the people in your life

# Speak the Truth Courageously

**Galatians 2:11-16a** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup> For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. <sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup> But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews? <sup>15</sup> We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; <sup>16</sup> yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...

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# Things to Learn from Galatians

Correct others wisely after lovingly encouraging them

Speak the truth courageously to the people in your life

Remember continuously that we are all one in Christ

# Remember we are one in Christ

**Galatians 3:16-18** Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

**Genesis 22:17-18** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

# Remember we are one in Christ

**Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Galatians 3:26-29** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

# Things to Learn from Galatians

Correct others wisely after lovingly encouraging them

Speak the truth courageously to the people in your life

Remember continuously that we are all one in Christ

Know and adhere heartily to the true gospel of Christ

# Know and Adhere to the True Gospel

**Galatians 2:16** yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

**Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



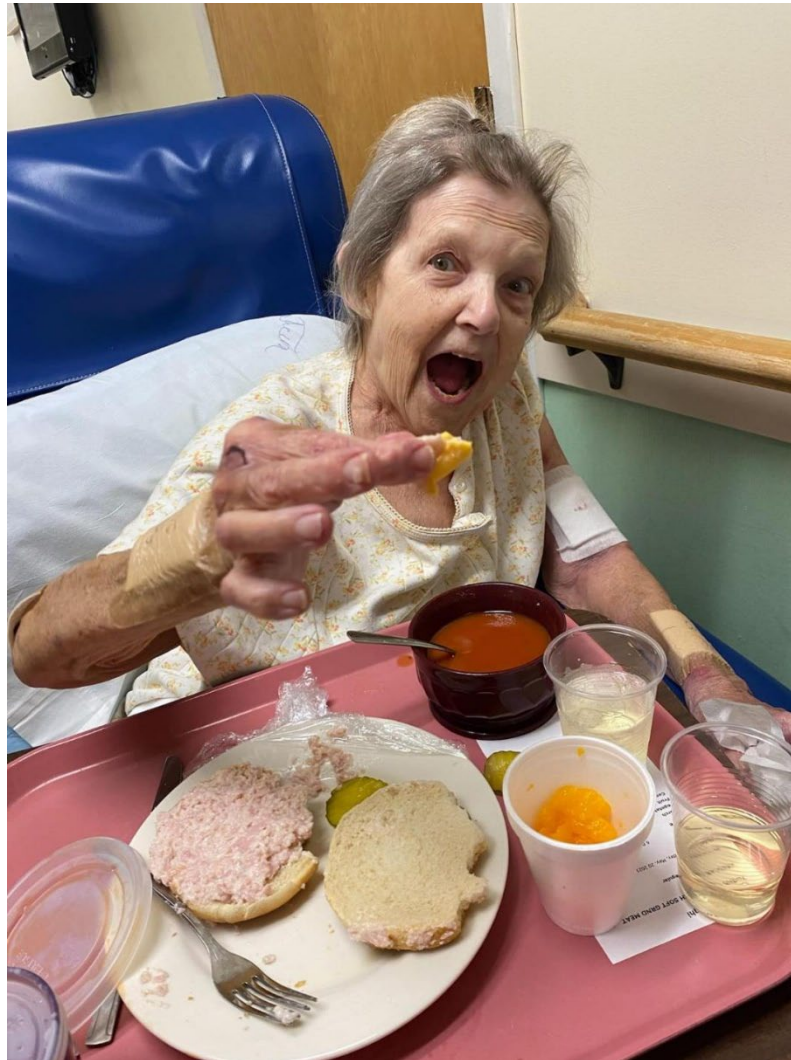
# Know and Adhere to the True Gospel

**Galatians 4:8-9** Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

**Galatians 5:3-4** I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

**Galatians 6:14-15** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

# My Mom



# Things to Learn from Galatians

Correct others wisely after lovingly encouraging them

Speak the truth courageously to the people in your life

Remember continuously that we are all one in Christ

Know and adhere heartily to the true gospel of Christ

Live for Christ successfully by the power of the Holy Spirit

# Live for Christ by the Power of the Spirit

**Galatians 3:1-2** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

**Galatians 4:6-7** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**Galatians 5:16-18** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

# Live for Christ by the Power of the Spirit

**Galatians 5:22-25** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**Galatians 6:1-2** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**Galatians 6:4-5** But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load.

**Galatians 6:7-8** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.