

Through the Bible Course

April 22, 1948

Galatians

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Key Thought: Justification by faith alone

Key Verse: 2:21

Time: Uncertain, but probably about 55 AD

Occasion: Judahizers had gone to Galatia and said Paul was not an apostle, therefore the Gospel he preached was not the true Gospel of Christ. They urged the Galatians to renounce Paul and his Gospel and to return to the Law as a method of salvation.

Purpose: Paul wrote to defend the Gospel of justification by faith alone and in doing so defends his own apostleship, emphasizing that he received it from God, not man.

- I. Chapter 1:1 – 2:14 – The Gospel defended from standpoint of origin.
 1. 1:1-5 – The foundation laid.
 2. 1:6-10 – There is but one Gospel, and he warns against accepting any other.
 3. 1:11-2:14 – History of his life proves he received it from Christ.
 - a. 1:11-17 – It was revealed to him by Christ apart from man while he was in Arabia.
 - b. 1:18-24 – Even when he was in Jerusalem he did not receive it from apostles.
 - c. 2:1-10 – The assembly at Jerusalem confirmed the Gospel he preached.
 - d. 2:11-14 – He even rebuked Peter for shifting his position.

- II. Chapter 2:15 – 4:31 – Gospel defended as being justification by faith
 1. 2:15-21 – Paul states his Gospel as being justification by faith
 2. 3:1-5 – marvels they are tempted to reject it since they had received Holy Spirit because of their faith, not obedience to Law
 3. 3:6-18 – Doctrine proven by Scripture
 - a. 3:6-14 – Abraham was justified by faith
 - b. 3:15-18 – Covenant of faith with Abraham could not be set aside by law which came 430 years afterward
 4. 3:19-25 – The purpose of the law was to lead us to Christ. It was our schoolmaster, that is, disciplinarian.
 5. 3:26-4:31 – By faith we become sons of God
 - a. 3:26-4:7 – As sons were redeemed from Law and taken from under disciplinarian or schoolmaster. Spirit in us cried Abba, Father (verse 6).
 - b. 4:8-31 – He urges them not to turn from their faith in Christ to the Law – He illustrates from Hagar and Sarah.

- III. Chapter 5:1 – 6:10 – He defends Gospel from standpoint of conduct
1. 5:1-13 – It is Gospel of freedom – to yield to circumcision as a principal would be a confession of insufficiency of Christ and His work.
 2. 5:14-26 – This freedom does not mean license – we are to walk in spirit not flesh. The flesh produces actions contrary to the Law while the spirit produces a life which will fulfill the Law.
 3. 6:1-10 – Practical illustrations of this
 - a. 6:1-6 – Faith in Christ will produce love which will minister to brethren
 - b. 6:7-10 – Man will reap what he sows. This is as true in spiritual realm as in natural.

Conclusion: 6:11-18 – Paul concludes letter with own handwriting.