

Galatians Study

The Uniqueness of the Gospel (1:1-9)

Lesson 1: May 19, 2010

Historical Setting

Galatians was written by Paul around 50 AD. It addresses the racial divide in Galatia. Initially, the first Christians there were Jewish then Gentile. A group of Jews were trying to force the Gentiles to follow the dietary laws and be circumcised for full acceptance and to be completely pleasing to God.

This racial division might seem irrelevant but Paul dealt with the issue with the abiding truth of the Gospel. By insisting that Christ-plus-anything-else as requirement for full acceptance by God, these teachers were presenting a whole different way of relating to God from the one Paul had given them. Paul fought the Judiazers “different Gospel” with the true gospel of Christ.

The obvious fact that is often overlooked is that Paul explains in detail what the gospel is and how it works to *professing Christians*. Therefore the gospel is not only for unbelievers but believers as well. (*Article - The Abiding Importance of the Gospel*).

The Outline of Galatians

- 1:1-9 Introduction to the Gospel and the occasion of the letter
- 1:10-2:21 Paul's Personal Defense of his gospel ministry
- 3:1-4:3 Paul's Theological Defense of the gospel message
- 5:1-6:18 Paul's Practical Application of the gospel message to our lives

1. Describe Paul's mood or frame of mind when he wrote this. What caused this attitude? Does it seem justified?
2. Paul calls himself an apostle. What can you learn from 1-9 that an apostle is or does?
3. Paul offers an outline of the gospel in the early verses. No outline can be complete, but does this one seem complete to you?

4. According to 6-7, any change to the gospel makes it null and void. Why?

5. How do people “add to the gospel” today in ways that diminish its power?

6. What is Paul’s attitude toward those who distort the gospel (8-9)? How can we ensure that the gospel we believe is “true”?

7. In your own words describe the gospel...

Questions for Young Worshippers

1. Who was Paul writing this letter to?
2. In your own words describe the gospel (ask your parents for help if you need it).
3. Can you find Galatia on a map?
4. What is an apostle?
5. Can you draw what Paul might have looked like? (use the space below)