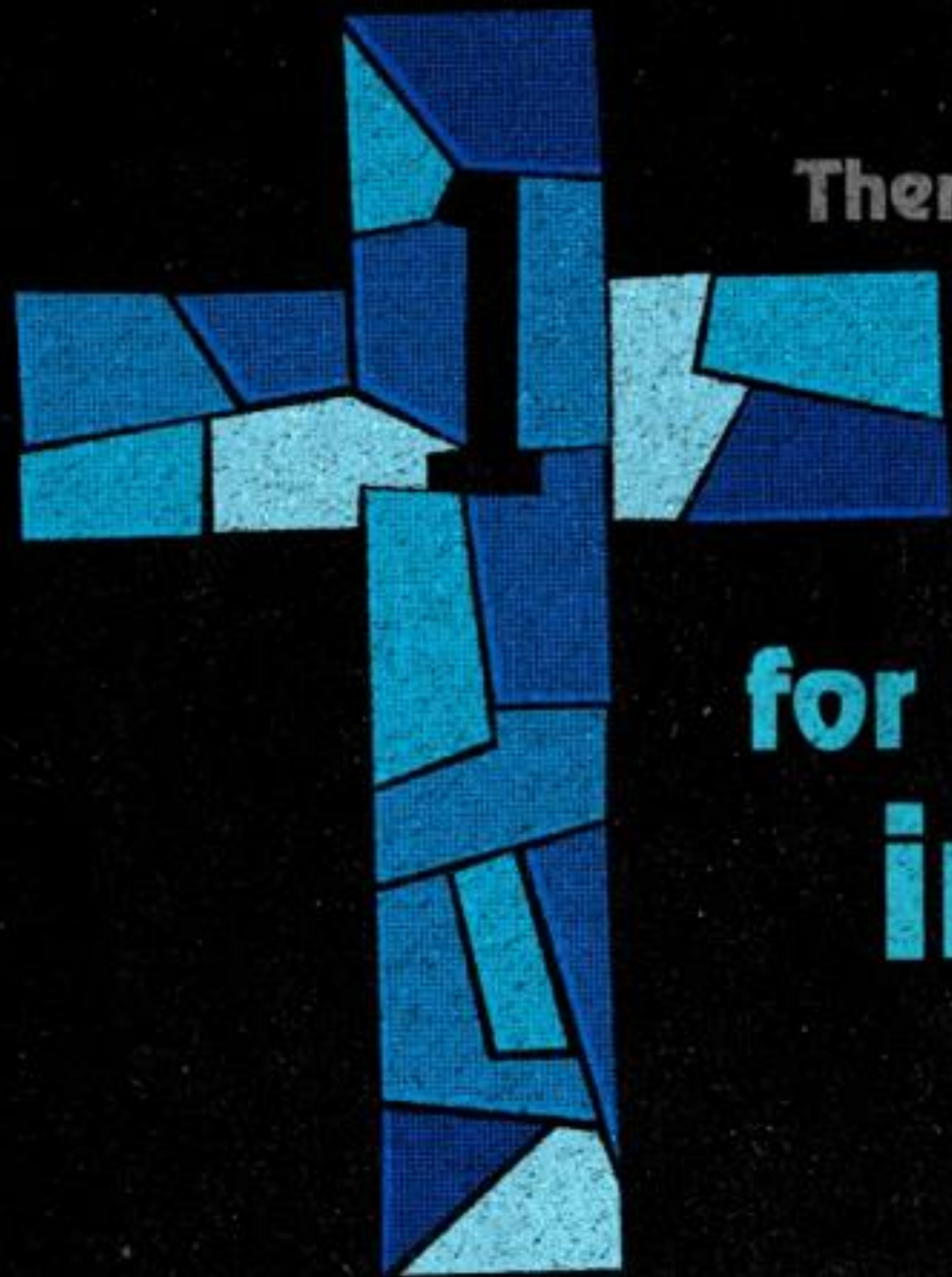




GALATIANS

Class 1 - introduction



**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**

Galatians 3:28

WHO,

Paul most likely wrote to the Galatians sometime around 57 AD from Ephesus, Macedonia, or Corinth during his third journey (somewhere between Acts 19 and Acts 20:3).

WHAT,

PAUL HAD ALREADY VISITED THEM AT LEAST TWICE.

WHEN,

“but ye know that because of an infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you **the first time:**” (Gal. 4:13)

WHERE,

& WHY



Sometime after Paul left Galatia, certain Jewish teachers came along insisting that Gentiles could not be Christians without also keeping the Law of Moses.



LAW OF MOSES



THE JUDAIZERS – ACTS 15

“knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law**, but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the law; **for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified**” (Gal 2:16)

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel, which is not another**; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Gal 1:7-8)

WHO,

WHAT,

WHEN,

WHERE,

& WHY

WHY GALATIANS IS SO IMPORTANT

The main purpose of this epistle is to establish the fact that Christianity is a religion **independent** of Judaism (and all other rituals, traditions, and ethnic backgrounds), and that Paul had the authority to preach Christ to the Gentiles without teaching the Law of Moses.

ROUGH OUTLINE OF GALATIANS

**CHAPTERS 1-2: PAUL'S AUTHORITY IS
FROM CHRIST**

**CHAPTERS 3-4: WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH
AND NOT THE WORKS OF THE LAW**

**CHAPTERS 5-6: VARIOUS EXHORTATIONS
TO CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR**

WHY CHALLENGE PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP?

Why do people challenge the Bible's authority today?

- The accuracy of Genesis (evolutionists)
- The accuracy of James (Calvinists)
- The accuracy of translations (Preterists, JW, Mormons)
- The accuracy of timelines, history of the Bible (skeptics)

All authority arguments are about a desire for a **new authority.**

“Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren that are with me, unto the churches of Galatia” (1:1)

“Grace to you and peace from the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1:3)

What matters is what Paul **DOESN'T** say. There is no giving of thanks, no friendly greetings of camaraderie, and no mention of his constant joy because of them.

AS IMPORTANT AS PAUL'S.

WHY ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

“who [Jesus] gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father: to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.”
(Gal 1:4)

1. Acceptance of Jesus' love

- We love, because he first loved us.
(I John 4:19)

2. Acknowledgment of Your Sin

- For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.
(Gal 5:1)

3. Humility Before God's Authority

- The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all they that do his commandments : His praise endureth for ever. (Ps 111:10)

I **marvel** that ye are **so quickly** removing from Him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel

Marvel: to be wondered at, to be had in admiration

It had only been three years since Paul had last been in Galatia – it took effort to leave the truth that fast!

“But I have this against you [Ephesus], that you have **abandoned the love** you had at first.” (Rev 2:4)

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest **heed to the things that were heard**, lest haply **we drift away** from them.” (Hebrews 2:1)

“And My people **are bent on backsliding from Me**: though they call them to Him that is on high, none at all will exalt Him.” (Hosea 11:7)

Remember, then, what you [Sardis] **received and heard. Keep it, and repent.** If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. (Rev. 3:3)

A congregation can quickly turn from the Lord if they lose a love for the Lord and a respect for His Word above their own feelings.



GALATIANS