

Galatians

Breakdown

- Galatians is the 4th epistle in the New Testament, and Paul makes it clear in this letter that he is the writer.
- Galatia was a large Roman province in the middle of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). On his first missionary journey, Paul visited Galatia, taught the people about Jesus, and both Jews and Gentiles (anyone who wasn't a Jew) became believers. Most Biblical scholars believe he wrote this letter around 48 A.D., probably less than 1 year after he left Galatia.

Main Points

- From the very beginning, God created people to be constantly connected to Him and His love. That connection was broken through the fall, so in the Old Testament, God gave His people a set of guidelines, called the Law, that perfectly detailed way they should live so they would be able to reconnect with Him and His love. Since no human would ever be able to completely follow the Law, God sent Jesus to fulfill it for us once and for all.
- In Galatians, we see that someone had been trying to convince the Galatian believers that salvation only comes through following the Law, not through accepting the sacrifice Jesus made. That is completely opposite of what Paul had taught them, so he wrote a sternly worded letter reminding them why Jesus had to die and how His death affects everyone.

Did you know?

- In Galatians, Paul explained that the gospel message that he preached was not taught to him by any human, but he received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. What was Paul's relationship with the church before his time with Jesus?
- The Galatian believers had accepted the true gospel Paul preached to them, but they were now rejecting the true gospel for a false one. How does Paul describe their situation?
- Paul said that God entrusted Peter with preaching the gospel to the Jews, but God entrusted Paul to preach the good news of Jesus to a different group. What group was it?
- Even though Peter was anointed by God and was a pillar of the Jewish church, Paul confronted him about something he was doing wrong. What was Peter doing wrong?
- Paul said that believers are called to be free, but he explained that doesn't mean we are free to do whatever we want. What does Paul say we should be doing?
- Paul explained that living in the Spirit means that we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives. If we are guided by the Holy Spirit, He will bear fruit in our lives. What are the fruit of the Spirit?

Further Thought

- Galatians outlines the relationship between the Law (the Old Covenant) that was given through Moses and God's New Covenant that was given through Jesus. Since Jesus fulfilled the Law for us, why is it important for us to learn about the Law?
- Jesus taught us that we would be known by the fruit of our lives, and Paul further explains that the fruit that other should see in our lives is the fruit of the Spirit. What can we do to make sure the people around us see the fruit of the Spirit in us?