

## GALATIANS

**Author: Paul**

**Date: A. D. 48 - 58**

Galatians is one of thirteen inspired letters Paul addressed to Gentile churches or his fellow workers. This letter has often been referred to as the “Magna Carta of Christian liberty” or “The Gospel of Grace.” Galatians is a classic statement of justification by grace through faith. This epistle addresses problems raised by the Judaizers (Jewish legalists) who had falsely taught that even Gentile believers must keep the Jewish laws in order to be made right with God. Paul writes to the churches in Galatia (Asia Minor - middle Turkey today) telling them that Christ has freed believers from bondage to sin and to the law and has placed them in a position of liberty. He forcefully explains that it is God’s grace, not our works, which save us.

As Paul refutes the teachings of the Judaizers, he calls believers back to the pure gospel. Salvation is by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ and nothing else. Faith in Christ means true freedom. Paul makes many references to the Old Testament and shows how it taught of grace also. He explains the purpose of God’s laws and the relationship between law, God’s promises, and Christ. Also, Galatians provides valuable information about Paul, including a three-year stay in Nabatean Arabia (1:17,18) that Acts does not mention; his fifteen-day stay with Peter after his stay in Arabia (1:18,19); his trip to the Jerusalem council (2:1-10); and his confrontation of Peter (2:11-21).

Theme: Christian liberty in the grace of God

Key

verses: *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”* (2:20-21); *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”* (5:1); *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law,”* (5:22-23).

### OUTLINE

- I. The Gospel of Liberty and **Grace Defended** (1:1 – 2:21)
  - A. Introduction (1:1-9)
  - B. Gospel Given by Divine Revelation (1:10-24)
  - C. Gospel of Grace Approved by the Church at Jerusalem (2:1-10)
  - D. Gospel of Grace Is Vindicated by Rebuking Peter (2:11-21)
- II. The Gospel of Liberty and **Grace Explained** (3:1 – 4:31)
  - A. Holy Spirit Is Given by Faith, Not Works (3:1-5)
  - B. Justification is by Faith, Not Works (3:6 – 4:11)
  - C. Appeal to Enter into Freedom from the Law (4:12-20)
  - D. Symbolism from Scripture – Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31)
- III. The Gospel of Liberty and **Grace Applied** (5:1 – 6:18)
  - A. Call to Freedom (5:1-12)
  - B. Walk in the Spirit, Not in the Flesh (5:13-26)
  - C. Life in Liberty: Do Good to All (6:1-10)
  - D. Conclusion (6:11-18)