

Lesson #30  
Book Overview  
Galatians

Galatians teaches that believers are saved by Jesus alone. They are part of a diverse family and equipped by the Spirit to love God and others.

Acts Chapters 13-14

Planted church there during one of his missionary journeys.

He wrote letter with deep passion and frustration.

Christianity started as a Jewish Messianic movement that quickly spread to all of humanity.

By the time of Paul, there were as many non-Jews as Jews in the movement.

Sparked a huge debate that is written about in Acts 15. Jews believed that non-Jews needed to follow Torah in order to become a follower of Jesus.

Some of these Jews came to Galatian and demanded they be circumcised as part of following Jesus.

This news came to Paul which angered him and prompted him to write this letter.

First, he writes about the gospel and the crucified Messiah. Ch. 1-2.

Second, he writes about the creation of a new multi-ethnic family. Ch. 3-4.

Lastly, he writes about how we are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ch. 5-6.

1. Ch. 1-2: The gospel of the crucified Messiah.
  - a. His shock that they would abandon the gospel so easily.
    - i. He defends his authority as an apostle.
      1. Commissioned by Jesus himself.
    - ii. Cleared his message/theology with apostles in Jerusalem. They gave their blessing to him.
  - b. Paul felt that demanding circumcision was a betrayal of the gospel!
    - i. No one can be justified by the demands of the Torah. Only through Jesus.
    - ii. Paul emphasized that when people trust in Jesus, what is true of Him becomes true of all of us. Gal. 2:20.
2. Ch. 3-4: Create a new multi ethnic family.

- a. Who can be included in God's covenant family? What does it mean to be part of God's family.
  - i. Writes about Abraham. Abraham righteous because he believed in God's promise that he would have a SON and then through that son would become the father of many NATIONS.
  - ii. Relate to God by faith and not because of Torah.
- 3. So why then did God give the Torah?
  - a. Torah given long after the promise given to Abraham.
  - b. Law was supposed to be temporary.
  - c. Law had 2 roles, both positive and negative.
    - i. Negative: magnify our sin and failure.
    - ii. Positive: Kept Israel in line until the promised offspring (Savior) from Abraham.
    - iii. Messiah fulfilled all the demands of the Law.
    - iv. Through the Messiah, blessing come to ALL people!
- 4. Ch. 5-6 – Be transformed by the Holy Spirit. The Torah was the only guide until then.
  - a. Transformed by the HS, not the Torah.
  - b. Law is good teaching but can't make us new.
  - c. Will now show the Fruit of the Spirit.
    - i. Stay in step with the HS. Transformation.
    - ii. Fulfills Torah.