

## ***“The Gospel in Galatians”***

### **Lesson #2 Paul’s Authority and Gospel**

2 Pet. 3:15, 16; Galatians 1; Phil. 1:1; Gal. 5:12.

**Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)** *“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ”.*

Ancient **Galatia** was an area in the highlands of central Anatolia in modern Turkey. Galatia was named for the immigrant Gauls from Thrace, who settled here and became its ruling caste in the 3rd century BC, following the Gallic invasion of the Balkans in 279 BC.

The basic format of Paul’s letters common to most letter writers in his day. The format included; (1) an opening salutation that mentioned the sender and the recipient, with a greeting; (2) a word of thanksgiving; (3) the main body of the letter; and, finally, (4) a closing remark.

**The oldest copy of Galatians dates back to about 200 A.D.**

**Acts 16:6 (NKJV)** *Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.*

**Acts 18:23 (NKJV)** *After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.*

### **Paul, the Letter Writer**

**2 Peter 3:15–16 (NKJV)** *and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,<sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

**Paul expected his letters to be read in other churches.**

**\*Colossians 4:16 (NKJV)** *Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:27 (NKJV)** *I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:14 (NKJV)** *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

**Revelation 1:11 (NKJV)** *saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”*

### **Paul’s Calling**

**Galatians 1:1–2 (NKJV)** *Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: [Went to Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch 3 times.](#)*

**Acts 9:15 (NKJV)** *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*

**Galatians 4:12–13 (NKJV)** *Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.<sup>13</sup> You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.*

**Galatians 5:2–3 (NKJV)** *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.<sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.*

**\*Galatians 6:17 (NKJV)** *From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.*

**Ephesians 1:1 (NKJV)** *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Paul’s opening salutation in Galatians is not only a bit longer than in his others, but he goes out of his way to describe the basis of his apostolic authority.*

Literally, the word **apostle** means “someone who is sent” or “a messenger.” In the New Testament, in the strictest sense, it refers to the original twelve followers of Jesus and others whom Christ sent to tell people about Him (Gal. 1:19, 1 Cor. 15:7). Paul declares that he belongs to this select group.

**Philippians 1:1 (NKJV)** *Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

## Paul's Gospel

**Galatians 1:3–5** *Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Whole Gospel*

Paul writes “Grace,” a similar-sounding word in Greek (charis). To this Paul adds the typical Jewish greeting of “Peace.”

**Ephesians 1:2** (NKJV) *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Philippians 1:2** (NKJV) *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Colossians 1:2** (NKJV) *To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## No Other Gospel

**Galatians 1:6–9** (NKJV) *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

**\*2 Corinthians 11:14** (NKJV) *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

## The Origin of Paul's Gospel

**Galatians 1:11–14** (NKJV) *But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*

## From The Womb

**Galatians 1:15** *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,*

**Isaiah 49:1** (NKJV) *“The Lord has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.*

**\*Jeremiah 1:5** (NKJV) *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”*

**Luke 1:15** (NKJV) *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*

**Galatians 1:16** *to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*

**Acts 22:21** (ESV) *And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ” Arabah (ar'-ab-ah) = A plain; a wilderness; desert.*

**Galatians 1:17–24** (NKJV) *nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God in me.*

**Genesis 17:13** (NKJV) *He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.*

**Acts 15:1** (NKJV) *And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”*

**Acts 15:4–5** (NKJV) *And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. <sup>5</sup> But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”*