

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

GALATIANS

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To refute the Judaizers and to call Christians to faith and freedom in Christ

Author

Paul

Date

Written about AD 49 from Antioch prior to the Jerusalem council (AD 50)

Audience

The churches in southern Galatia founded on his first missionary journey and Christians everywhere.

Setting

A crisis has hit the churches in Galatia: the relationship of new believers, particularly Gentiles, to the Jewish law. To require them to follow the outward ceremonies of the Mosaic law is to deny the heart of the gospel, which is justification by faith alone. Paul wrote to correct this problem. The council at Jerusalem later officially resolves this issue concerning the Judaizers.

Special Features

This letter is not addressed to a specific church and likely was circulated among several churches in Galatia.



Key Verses

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (2:20 ESV)

“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 NIV)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (5:22-23 ESV)

Key People

Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Titus, Abraham, false teachers

Key Places

Galatia, Jerusalem