Introduction to Galatians [From ESV.org]

c. A.D. 33/34	A.D. 48/49–51	c. A.D. 64–67
Conversion of Paul	Paul visits, writes to Galatians	Paul martyred in Rome

Paul's letter to the Galatians was likely written to the churches he had established during his first missionary journey (Acts 13:1–14:28). He probably wrote the letter from his home church in Antioch in Syria, sometime before the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:1–31).

Theme: Christ's death has brought in the age of the new covenant (3:23–26; 4:4–5, 24). People do not have to become Jews or follow the outward ceremonies of the Mosaic law in order to be Christians (2:3, 11–12, 14; 4:10). To require these things denies the heart of the gospel, which is justification by faith alone and not by keeping the "works of the law" (2:16). In this new age, Christians are to live in the guidance and power of the Spirit (chs. 5–6).

Purpose: False teachers have convinced the Galatians that they are required to be circumcised. The result is division within their church (5:15). Paul gives numerous reasons why they should return to the simple truth of the gospel.



CH 1

Introduction (1:1 – 10)

1. The greeting of a Paul's letter hints what he is going to say in the letter. In v1-5, words and expressions other than 'From Paul, … to the churches of Galatia, grace and peace to you from God and Jesus' are extra. And these extra words allude the themes of this letter. What would be the extra words and the alluded themes?

Occasion of the letter: No other gospel!

2. Why is Paul upset? What would be the purpose of this letter?

Autobiographical Argument for the Gospel (1:11-2:21)

Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship.

3. "the gospel I preached is not of ( ) origin. For I did not receive it or learn it from any ( ) source; instead I received it by a ( ) of Jesus Christ."

4. Find three arguments of contrast that Paul uses to claim that his gospel was not from man but from God.

V13-16:

V16-17:

V18-21:

CH 2

Confirmation from the Jerusalem Apostles

1. Paul's message, "one doesn't need to be circumcised to be a Christian," was so radical to the viewpoint of Jewish Apostles. Why did Paul share his gospel to the apostles in private? (2-3)

2. Why did Paul not make Titus to be circumcised? (3-5)

3. How different is Paul's ministry from Peter's ministry? (3, 7, 8)

4. How did Peter and John come to accept that Paul's gospel is authentic? (7,8,9)

Paul Rebukes Peter's Hypocrisy

5. Why did Peter leave the table while he was eating with Gentiles?

6. What message could be given to Gentile Christians who were eating with Peter when he left the place of eating?

7. Why is Peter's departure a hypocrite behavior?

8. What do you think made Peter not behave according to faith?

Justification of Jews and Gentiles – Proposition of the Letter

9. Verses 15 and 16 can be paraphrased as this. We Jews are pious since birth. However, as we know that no one is justified by (the works of the law) unless through (the faith of Jesus Christ), we have come to believe in Christ Jesus. Therefore, being more like (a Jew) doesn't give you anything to boast on.

10. V17 and v18 tell two common mistakes that come from misunderstanding of the salvation by faith. What are two kinds of misbehavior? (Hint: Carefully read first halves of two verses)

11. Now, v19-v21 explain right understanding about "justification by the faith (or faithfulness) of Jesus Christ." Having died to the law

means that you admit that you are (a sinner) as the law points out and that you died on the cross together with (Jesus) as the penalty of your sins. Though you still lives in sinful (flesh), you could live to (God) because of the faith (or faithfulness) of (the Son of God). In Jesus, you are dead to flesh and the law and alive to God.

12. Write 2:20 here.

Theological Arguments for the Gospel (3:1-4:7)

CH 3

Salvation by Faith Only (3:1-14)

1. Why are they foolish to Paul's eyes?

2. Why do you think the author does mention Abraham's faith here? (hint: For them was an important issue who Abraham's descendant, the heir of the promise, were) (v7,9)

3. What was God's plan when He promised to Abraham "all the nations will be blessed in you"? (3:8) In other word, what is God's way to bless the Gentiles to fulfill His promise?

4. Why are we under a curse? (v10-11)

5. What was the reason Jesus was crucified? (v13)

6. How was the Abraham's promise fulfilled to us? (v14) In other words, what is the blessing that God promised?

Salvation by Relationship in Christ (3:15-4:11)

7. Why could the law given through Moses not invalidate the promise given to Abraham?

8. The law seemed useless for it couldn't invalidate the promise but rather brought curses to the transgressors. Why was the law given? (two. v19-21, 22-24)

9. "But now that ( ) has come, we are no longer under ( )" We get righteousness in Christ, which OT people had failed to get through the law. What does this righteousness mean? (hint: our new identity in Christ, v26-29)

CH 4

An Illustration: Grownup children are not under slave tutor (4:1-7)

1. From the analogy of the slave guardian, what do you think this guardian refers to?

2. Why was Jesus born under the law? (v5)

3. How do you know that you are a God's child?

Application of the Gospel (4:8-6:10)

Do not return to the old way (4:8-31)

4. What had we been slaves to before we knew the Christ? (v8-10)

5. What situation does Paul imply in the saying, "my work for you may have been in vain"?

6. What is the purpose of false teachers being nice to the Galatians?

7. Why did Abraham make Hagar and Ishmael leave out? (Gen 21:1-14)

6. “Hagar represents ( ) and corresponds to ( ), for she is in slavery with her children. But ( ) is free, and she is our mother.”

7. What would be a life situation when you are persecuted by those born according to the flesh? (v29) What would be the remedy? (v30).

CH 5

Freedom in Christ (5:1-12)

1. “For ( ) Christ has set us free. Stand ( ), then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of ( ).”

2. If you try to be justified by the law, what are two consequences? (v3-4)

3. Once we have believed Jesus, what do we wait for? (v5)

4. Faith tells us that we ought to wait for ( ) that will become tangible when Jesus returns. For now, faith is proven by works of ( ), not by religious works. However, the false

teachers claimed that we should acquire righteousness by keeping certain religious works, like ( ).

Live by the Spirit (5:13-26)

5. Why do we need to love one another using our freedom? (two: v13-14, 15)

6. Why do we need to live by the Spirit in order not to fulfill the desires of your flesh? (two: v16-17, 18)

7. v19-26 tell us how to live by the Spirit. First, get out from a life of the flesh which is so ( ) as listed in v19-21. Then, we should seek to bear fruit of ( ) as in v22-23. No one can blame you as you bear such fruit. Christians are those who ( ) the flesh with its ( ) and desires and live in accordance with ( ) for they were born by ( ). As you grow in mature, you should be careful not to [ ] over others.

CH 6

New goal and hope (6:1-10)

1. When you see someone in the church sinned, what do you need to do?

2. What do you think the law of Christ is?

3. Verse 2 and verse 5 seem contradictory each other. However, they mean one message. How? (hint: ‘burden’ in v2 means burden and distress. ‘load’ in v5 means obligation and duty.)

4. “A person will ( ) what he ( ).” But Satan deceives us that we might get ( ) even though we live to satisfy our own ( ).

Closing (6:11-18)

5. What were the purpose of the false teachers? (three, v12-13)

6. “May I never boast except in ( ) of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which ( ) has been crucified to me, and ( ) to the world.”

CH 1

1. An apostle not by human, but Father-> Paul will defend about His apostleship.

Rescue from this evil age -> Paul warns that the false gospels adhere worldly success

Jesus gave Himself, according to the will of God

Our God and Father (three times): Paul will emphasize our new relationship with God, our Father.

2. There so quickly deserted the gospel and followed the fake gospel.

3. Human, human, revelation

4. V13-16: Paul used to persecute the church. It was God who made me a preacher of the gospel.

V16-17: After that, I didn't get any advice from human beings

V18-21: I didn't get any influence from other apostles.

CH 2

1. To make sure his ministry for the Gentiles not to be ruined by a Jewish prejudice that the Gentiles believers should keep the Jewish tradition like circumcision.

2. Not to surrender to the claim of the false teachers: the necessity of circumcision.

By doing that, Paul wanted to make the truth of the gospel clear to them.

3. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, as Peter was to the Jews.

4. They saw God's grace in Paul and his ministry.

5. He feared an accusation by Jewish visitors of eating with the Gentiles.

6. The Gentile believers would be compelled to belong Jewish community by keeping circumcision and Jewish tradition.

They must have felt humiliation.

7. Peter didn't keep Jewish traditions but behaved as if he had done so when Jewish visitors came. He concerned more about the human critics than the gospel truth.

8. Seeking of human glory.

9. (the works of the law) (the faith of Jesus Christ), (a Jew)

10. As we see ourselves still sinning as we believe in Jesus, we would have two misunderstandings followed by two misbehaviors.

- "It is OK to sins": Jesus encourages sin (v17) -> Keep sinning without guilt.
- "make a list of dos and don'ts" "we should still keep the law" (v18) -> go into slavery once again.

11. e (a sinner) (Jesus) (flesh), (God) (the Son of God).

12. Write 2:20 here.

"I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. SO the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself or me." (NET)

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. (ESV)

CH 3

1. They had began with the Spirit but tried to finish by human efforts. Accepting Jesus = the Spirit's work. Living with Jesus should be also the Spirit's work. But they relied on human efforts.

If you know inferiority of human flesh, you would not try to complete your salvation which you have started by the Spirit.

2. True descendants of Abraham are not of flesh and blood, but of faith. It was God's intention when He promised to Abraham.

3. Through faith. Through those who follow the way of Abraham's faith.

4. Because we don't keep everything in the law.

5. To bear the curse for us.

6. HOW? In Jesus Christ,, by faith

What? (the promise of) the Spirit

7. The covenant (or promise) had been given before the law was given. The covenant was ratified by God's name.

8. "Because of their transgression." The law imprisoned everyone under the guilt of sin.

"The promise could be given to those who believe." They would come to Jesus and believe, not themselves.

Note. A guilt shall be removed only through the forgiving grace of Jesus, not through excuses and blames.

9. Faith, a guardian.

Becoming Abraham's descendants, the heirs of the promise.

CH 4

1. The law

2. To redeem those under the law.

Born under the law = born in flesh. To redeem = to die for their sins.

3. If you have the Spirit of His Son.

4. The weak and worthless basic forces. Days, Months, and rituals.

Being slaves to them: thinking keeping those rules will get God's favor.

5. Paul preached the gospel of freedom by Jesus' sacrifice and because of it suffered a lot by Jewish people. Galatians at first had accepted the gospel and then returned to the old rules of religion.

6. Those false teachers are so eager to win their favor by shut them off from Paul.

7. Because Ishmael bullied Isaac. Sarah asked Abraham to banish them.

6. Mount Sinai, the present Jerusalem, the Jerusalem above.

7. Situation: when someone accuses you of not keeping the law while you have followed God's will at that moment.

Remedy: kick out the rules and policies as requirements for righteousness before God.

CH 5

1. Freedom, firm, slavery.

If you adhere to the law, you are a slave to the law. If you ignore the law, you are a slave to sin.

2. You are obligated to obey the whole law.

You are alienated from Christ and grace.

3. The hope of righteousness.

Full realization of the righteousness we will have enjoyed through Jesus. Righteousness means right relationship with God. At that time, we will clearly see what the righteousness means and its benefits for us.

4. The righteousness, love, circumcision.

5. It will fulfill the law.

If you use your freedom to indulge your flesh, you will bite each other eventually and will die together.

6. Desires of the Spirit is opposite desires of the flesh. If you follow the Spirit, you won't do the works of the flesh.

You won't be under the law and thus won't be accused by the law.

7. Obvious, the Spirit, crucified, passions, the Spirit, the Spirit, boast

CH 6

1. You need to restore that person in a spirit of gentleness.

Pay close attention that you are not tempted too.

Carry that person's burden

2. Bear the burden of other's sins. Sacrifice for others.

3. Taking other's burden is your duty.

4. Reap, sows, eternal life, flesh.

5. A good showing in external matters

Avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ

Human glory through the flesh of the Galatians (obedience to their teachings)

6. The cross, the world, I.

Complete alienation from the world and to the world.