



Introduction to Galatians (Part 1)

Galatians 1:1-5

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

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The Book of Galatians is a rescue mission that is based on a rescue mission. In Paul's introduction to the book, he reminds believers what we have been rescued from, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Background (Acts 13:13 – 14:28)

Central to Paul's preaching in the province of Galatia is the message of Acts 13:38-39. God's law won't set you free; freedom is only found through Jesus Christ.

1. The Apostle (1:1) – "a sent one"

Apostles in the New Testament were a select group of men who were eyewitnesses to the life of ministry of Jesus Christ before AND after His resurrection. They were appointed by Jesus Christ with unique authority to speak the Word of God (cf. Ephesians 2:20; Matthew 10:2; Luke 6:13; Acts 1:2, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:7-9).

2. The gospel

- It was planned by God (v. 4).
- It is proven by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (v. 1).
- It is all of grace (v. 3)

- It results in peace (v. 3).
- It required that Jesus Christ give Himself in sacrifice to rescue sinners (v. 4).

Jesus Christ gave Himself to rescue us not just from eternal suffering, but from bondage to sin in this present evil age.

Questions to Consider

1. If you haven't already, read through Galatians in one sitting, as if you were reading a letter. What do you see as major themes? Are there key words or phrases that are repeated? What seems to be the overall tone of the letter? What seems to be at stake?
2. How does Acts 13:38-39 inform the background of the book of Galatians?
3. What are examples of counterfeit belief systems in our day that put an emphasis on human performance as the means of being made right with God?
4. How were New Testament apostles selected and commissioned, and what was required in order to be one? What do these lessons, combined with the lack of a mandate for appointing new apostles, indicate about the possibility of apostles after the First Century?
5. In what way does the resurrection of Jesus Christ validate the gospel of Jesus Christ; or, to put it differently, could there be a saving gospel without the resurrection? Why not?
6. Which of these elements of the gospel do you sometimes find yourself losing sight of and slipping away from? Why must we continue to meditate on these truths?
7. We know that the gospel gives eternal life and provides rescue from the condemnation of God, but what rescue does verse 4 address? What does this mean for how you live today? From what has Jesus already set you free? Are there ways that you yield yourself back over to the power of sin (cf. Romans 6:12-14)?