



OVERVIEW
OF
GALATIANS

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GALATIANS:

AN OVERVIEW

Paul's epistle to the Galatians is highly esteemed within the church and often regarded as one of Paul's most important letters.

It has been given such titles as the Magna Carta of spiritual liberty, the Christian Declaration of Independence, and the battle cry of the Reformation.

AUTHOR:

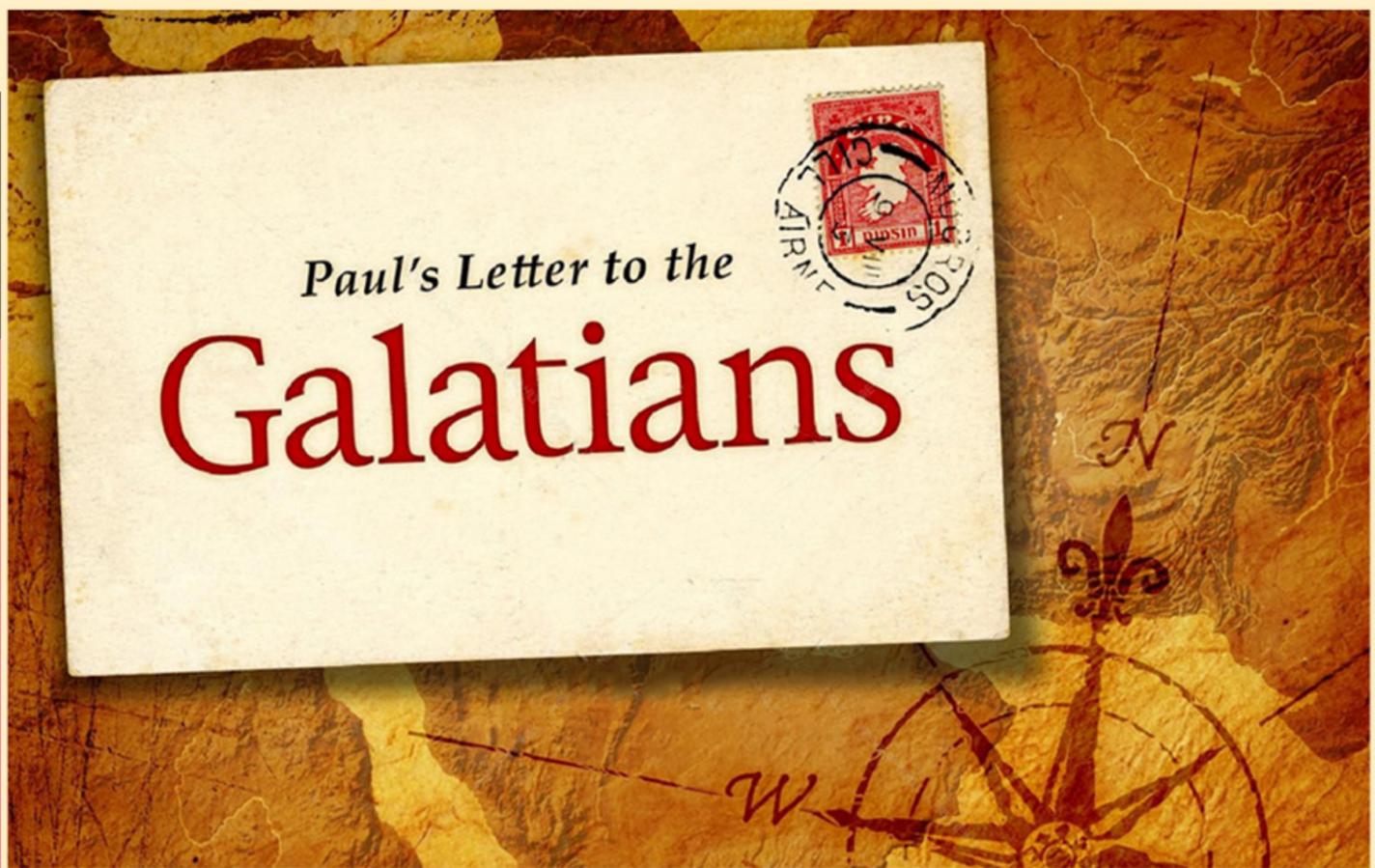
Galatians 1:1 and 5:2 clearly identifies the apostle Paul as the writer of the epistle to the Galatians. Galatians is the fourth of Paul's letters. Of the 27 New Testament books, Paul wrote 13. Nine of these books are letters to local churches (like the ones in Galatia).

DATE OF WRITING:

Galatians is one of the first New Testament books to be written, composed sometime soon after AD 49 - AD 50.

PURPOSE OF WRITING:

Galatians was addressed to a number of churches in the region of Galatia, where Paul had traveled on one of his missionary journeys (Acts 13 -14). The churches in Galatia were comprised of both Jewish and Gentile converts. Paul's purpose in writing to these churches was to confirm them in the faith, especially concerning justification by faith alone, apart from the works of the Law of Moses. He argues that this Gospel is what creates the new, multiethnic family of God, truly transforming people through the presence and power of Jesus' Spirit.



BACKGROUND TO GALATIANS:

In the major city of Antioch, Syria there was a multi-cultural church (Acts 13), that was the church that sent Paul and Barnabas to spread the Gospel further West in their first missionary journey. Then Disciples were made in places like Antioch of Psidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (see Acts 13-14), and there was much opposition especially from Jews because Paul and Barnabas were preaching that Gentiles were fully welcome in the people of

God in Christ. But Paul kept on preaching and welcoming Gentiles, because for Paul, this was a central gospel issue. If Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and the culmination of Israel's story, that means the blessing of Abraham is now available for all nations. And thus Gentiles can join Abraham's family as Gentiles, and inherit all of God's promises as his sons and daughters.

STYLE OF WRITING:

The book of Galatians is a letter written in prose discourse to the churches in Galatia.

CHAPTER THEMES:

CHAPTERS 1-2

Paul defends his ministry and message by showing that he received his gospel from revelation, that it was upheld by the Jerusalem leadership, and that he has the authority to call out even Peter.

CHAPTERS 3-4

Paul builds a theological case that being in a right relationship with God and being part of his people comes by faith not the Law, just as it did for Abraham.

CHAPTERS 5-6

Paul contends that to live as the people of God entails faith working through love in the power of the Spirit. So, God's people are those who live by faith in Jesus the Messiah and walk by the Spirit.



QUICK OUTLINE OF GALATIANS



1. THE GOSPEL UNDER ATTACK IN GALATIA

(Gal 1:1–10)

2. HISTORY OF THE LAW VS. GRACE DEBATE

(Gal 1:11–2:21)

3. SALVATION VIA FAITH VS. SALVATION VIA WORKS

(Gal 3)

4. SLAVERY VS. SONS AND HEIRS OF GOD

(Gal 4)

5. THE SINFUL FLESH VS. THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Gal 5)

6. HOW TO DO GOOD IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

(Gal 6)

This is part of the study outline from our teaching series Verse by Verse Study of the book of Galatians.



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