

The Letters to the Churches- The Pure Gospel... Galatians

Galatians has been called the "*Magna Charta*" of the church. It is a defense of the gospel that would prevent any mixture of error. Paul defends his apostleship and the gospel from legalism in this book.

Allow the following outline for the book as we take this STEP.

Galatians: The Pure Gospel**Introduction: 1:1-5****I- The Pure Gospel We Preach: 1:6-2:16****A- Departure from the Pure Gospel 1:6-10****B- Development of the Pure Gospel 1:11-24****C- Defense of the Pure Gospel 2:1-16****II- The Pure Gospel We Were Promised: 3:1-5:1****A- Dependence on the Pure Gospel 3:1-22****B- Deliverance of the Pure Gospel 3:23-28****C- Disembarkment of the Pure Gospel 4:1-7****D- Dependability of the Pure Gospel 4:8- 5:1****III- The Pure Gospel We Practice: 5:2-6:17****A- Defamation of the Pure Gospel 5:2-15****B- Deportment of the Pure Gospel 5:16-26****C- Demands of the Pure Gospel 6:1-17****Conclusion: 6:18****Introduction: 1:1-5**

In this introduction let us look at the following: the time of the writing, by

whom Galatians was written and to whom this letter was addressed as well as the purpose the letter.

There are two dates suggested for the writing of this epistle. One is 48 A.D. and the other is 55-60 A.D. Concerning the writer of this epistle it is none other than the Apostle Paul **1:1**.

One of the unique things about Galatians is it was not written to one church but to a group of churches in the region of Galatia. **1:2**

The purpose of the book as we have stated was to defend the gospel against the intrusion of legalism and to keep it pure by grace alone. In the course of this defense Paul must defend his apostleship.

I- The Pure Gospel We Preach: 1:6-2:16**A- Departure from the Pure Gospel 1:6-10**

Paul marveled at them being so easily carried away by false doctrine. **1:6** He warns them against false teachers as well. **1:8**

B- Development of the Pure Gospel 1:11-24

Paul makes it plain that he did not receive the gospel from man but from God. **1:11-12**. He gives us an account of the early days after his conversion and trip into Arabia. **1:17**.

C- Defense of the Pure Gospel 2:1-16

Paul tells of the defense of the gospel in Jerusalem before false brethren. (**2:4-5**); before Peter (**2:11-14**) face to face. He had taken Titus as a trophy of grace to the Gentiles with him (**2:3**)

**II- The Pure Gospel We Were
Promised: 3:1-5:1**

**A- Dependence on the Pure Gospel
3:1-22**

The first three verses are powerful eternal security verses. Are you made perfect by the flesh? Paul ask a question that the obvious answer to is no. We must depend on the gospel of grace. He gave the example of Abraham to show it has always been by grace.

**B- Deliverance of the Pure Gospel
3:23-28**

The deliverance we have experienced is discussed here. We were prisoners to the law (3:23) but were delivered from being a servant to the law to being a son of God (3:26-27) and an heir (3:29).

**C- Disembarkment of the Pure
Gospel 4:1-7**

“When the fulness of time was come...” Christ disembarked from glory to the manger. He disembarked for our redemption. (4:5).

**D- Dependability of the Pure Gospel
4:8- 5:1**

Paul was concerned that the Galatians would turn from the gospel to paganism. He gives an allegory of Sarah and Hagar to show the two covenants of Law and Grace. He says that we are, *“...not children of the Bondwoman but of the free.”* We are children of grace not of the law.

He also exhorts us to stand free in this liberty and not be brought again into bondage of the law.

**III- The Pure Gospel We Practice: 5:2-
6:17**

Paul gives application to life in this section. He always applied the Word of God to the lives of believers.

**A- Defamation of the Pure Gospel
5:2-15**

Paul presents a hypothetical case here with concerning circumcision. He said three things that would be lost if they defamed the gospel with circumcision, which is a form of legalism in the New Testament. Christ would profit nothing, you would be a debtor to the whole law, and Christ would become of no effect.

He said that when the gospel is perverted and not pure it hinders growth. He used two illustrations to show this, running and cooking. Who cut in on you as you ran he ask. He used leaven to show that if circumcision was allowed to enter it would contaminate the whole gospel.

**B- Deportment of the Pure Gospel
5:16-26**

Paul showed the warfare of our two natures in 5:16-18. He then tells us the wrong acts we have if we are controlled by the flesh. A total of eighteen things are given. (5:19-21) The right acts are next in 5:22-23. From love to temperance are given in a total of nine.

The right deportment is made possible by crucifying the flesh (5:24), walking in the Spirit (5:25) and laying aside our interest for the interest of others (5:26).

**C- Demands of the Pure Gospel 6:1-
17**

The Word of God was not given in a void of practical need. It addresses us in a real world with real demands on us as believers. We at times want to look at our spiritual life as a list of do's and don'ts, A better gauge of our

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spiritual condition is if we can look past ourselves to others.

The gospel requires that we look at ourselves instead of others around us. He has given us a ministry of reconciliation also. (6:1)

We need to be concerned for others care as we bear each other's burdens (6:2, 4-5). We are taught to do good to all men (6:9-10).

If we suffer for the cause of Christ should it come as a surprise to us? Paul suffered without wrong for the cause of Christ. (6:17). He bore the scars of persecution.

Conclusion: 6:18

Paul ends by calling them "**brethren.**" He ends also the way he started with grace not law. The gospel is a gospel of grace.

Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- Be careful to handle the gospel message with reverence and not add our opinions.
- 2- The gospel has and will stand the test of time as being by grace alone without the law.
- 3- Legalism still lies at the door of the gospel and would bring us again captive to the law.
- 4- The gospel was not an invention of man but a revelation of God.
- 5- Our lives have demands placed on them by the gospel. Our actions should be consistent with the Word of God.

Retracing Our Steps:

1- Who wrote the book of Galatians?

2- What makes the Galatians letter differenece than most other epistles to the churches? _____

3- What did Paul fight to keep out of the gospel? _____

4- Where did Paul receive the gospel from? _____

5- What did Paul rebuke the Galatians for? _____