

# A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

## LESSON ONE

### OUTLINE

PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP (1:1-2:21)

PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS GOSPEL (3:1-5:12)

APPLICATION OF HIS VIEWPOINT (5:13-6:18)

### OBJECT AND CONTENT OF LETTER TO GALATIANS

A. Gospel of JUSTIFICATION by the free GRACE of God – simply through faith  
in Christ

B. His CALL is from Christ and not from men

C. His MESSAGE is from Christ and not from men.

### THEMES

1. The church is held together by accepting God's grace and living in step with His Spirit (2:19-21).

A. Awareness of a perversion of the gospel of grace that was actively infecting the churches of Galatia

B. Advocating salvation by the "works of the law" (keeping the law)

C. The seducers were probably not strangers, but Churchmen of Galatia itself.

D. Paul's task in writing this letter was to convince his "little children" in the faith, whom he had evangelized personally, that the new teaching was in fact a distortion of the gospel of Christ. He reasserts his authority which had been minimized by the false teachers. Even though Paul seemed terse, he wrote from the position of love. He saw the Galatians leaving the true gospel of salvation by grace for one of works. He literally loved the Galatians to allow them to go astray.

1. Christians must choose between the law and faith (3:10-14).

1. The law did have a purpose. It guarded God's people until faith was revealed in Christ (3:24-25) (offered no salvation)

Paul – an apostle (through Jesus Christ and God the Father)

A. Calling – Acts 26:12-18 (to salvation and to be an apostle)

B. Circular letter intended for several churches in Galatia

1. Features of the Movement

A. Originated with Gentiles

B. Losing grip on salvation by faith alone – talk of toying with celebration of days, and months, and seasons, and years

C. Effect of Paul's letter to the Galatians

Present danger of “works-based theology” rather than a “faith-based theology”