

## Purpose

To refute the Judaizers, who taught that Gentile believers must obey the Jewish law in order to be saved, and to call Christians to faith and freedom in Christ

## Author

Paul

## To Whom Written

The churches in Galatia, started on Paul's first missionary journey (Iconium, Lystra, Derbe)

## Date Written

From Antioch, 49 AD

## Setting

The most pressing controversy was the relationship of new believers, particularly Gentiles, to the Jewish laws.

## Key People

Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Abraham, and False Teachers

## Key Verse

"Christ has really set you free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery."

*Galatians 5:1*

## Special Feature

This letter was written and circulated in an area, not a particular city.

## An Overview (6 Chapters)

- Authenticity of the Gospel (1:1-2:21)
- Superiority of the Gospel (3:1-4:31)
- Freedom of the Gospel (5:1-6:18)

## Major Themes

- *Apostleship*: Because of Paul's former manner of life, that of a Law-abiding Pharisee who persecuted Christians, his role as a messenger of Christ had to be explained and defended.
- *The Law*: The Law of Moses was not a contradiction to Christ but a compliment to Christ. It prepared God's people for the need of a Savior. It was not a savior in itself.
- *Faith*: Faith alone in Christ alone is God's path to salvation. Works do not work.
- *Father Abraham*: As Christians, we have a spiritual tie to the promises of God to Abraham.
- *Freedom*: Christ set us free from the Law but not from all law. We are free from the yoke of slavery but now carry His yoke, the law of love. Liberty is always accompanied with law.
- *Holy Spirit*: God's Spirit and our sinful flesh are at odds, constantly warring in our bodies.