

Galatians

- ### Outline
- 1:1-5 – Greetings
 - 1:6-2:14 – Defending Paul’s Apostolic Authority
 - 2:15-4:31 – One is saved by faith in Christ (or by the faithfulness of Christ) rather than Law
 - 5:1-6:10 – Describing Freedom in Christ through the Spirit

- ### Features
- Written to churches (plural)!
 - No thanksgiving section
 - The harsh tone in the letter – apologetic letter
 - Paul’s autobiography of his conversion (1:11-17)
 - Paul confronting Peter (2:11-14)
 - The opponents (1:7; 4:17; 5:7, 10; 6:12-13). See also Acts 15:1-4. Judaisers, doing “clean up acts” after Paul, hoping to make Gentiles to become Jews.

- ### Issues
- Galatians and events in Acts & the dating of Galatians
 - Gal 1:18-24 – Jerusalem visit after 3 years, stayed 15 days with Peter (Cephas)
 - Gal 2:1-10 – another Jerusalem visit after 14 years
 - One Meeting: Gal 2 = Acts 15 (no ref to 11:30)
 - Two Meetings: Gal 2 = Acts 11:30, early writing of Galatians, Acts 15

2 alternatives

One Meeting Scenario	Galatians	Acts
Paul’s conversion	1:13-16	9:1-22
Visit to Arabia	1:17	
1 st Visit to Jerusalem	1:18-24	9:26-30
2 nd Famine relief visit		11:29-30; 12:25
3 rd visit (Council Visit)	2:1-10	15:1-35
Writing of Galatians		

2 alternatives

Two Meetings Scenario	Galatians	Acts
Paul’s conversion	1:13-16	9:1-22
Visit to Arabia	1:17	
1 st Visit to Jerusalem	1:18-24	9:26-30
2 nd Visit to Jerusalem (Famine & Leaders meeting)	2:1-10	11:29-30; 12:25
Composition of Galatians		
3 rd visit (Council Visit)		15:1-35

Issues

- The destination: South or North Galatia
- North: the old kingdom, where Galatians could mean the people of Gallic. Paul may not have visited this region which is remote and inaccessible
- South: the new province – where Paul visited including Antioch, Iconium, Derba, Lystra in all his missionary journeys

Issues

- Paul's apostleship in question
- 2:10 – "remembering the poor" as Pauline focus?
- 2:15-16 – "faith in Jesus Christ" or "faithfulness of Jesus Christ"

Issues

- Observing the Law: the whole torah or "boundary markers" (circumcision, food laws and sabbath) → ethnocentric pride/national identity
- What is at stake in Galatia? The Gospel – the death of Jesus

Application

- Christianity today – a set of rules/regulations/tradition to follow?
- Salvation = ?
- Walking in line with the truth of the gospel (2:14)
- The experience of God/Holy Spirit (3:1-5)