

# THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

## AN OVERVIEW

JANUARY 3, 2024

Galatians is INTENSE AND PERSONAL—in reading it, one can feel Paul’s deep affection for the church and His desire to care for her!!!

Faith Alone vs Faith plus Works!!!

Freedom in Christ—to live by the power of the Spirit

A. Our relationship with God is not via merit or performance, but on the works of Christ!

B. Free, not to serve our sinful nature, but free to LOVE AND SERVE our Lord and others.

First Missionary Journey

A. Paul and Barnabas traveled from Antioch of Syria to the Roman province of Galatia.

B. Established churches in the following cities: Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13:13-14, 28)

C. Many believed, yet they faced formidable opposition and persecution!

D. Paul and Barnabas then returned to Antioch of Syria and reported what God had done and how God had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 14:27).

THIS EFFORT WAS FURTHER PROOF THAT GOD HAD MADE SALVATION AVAILABLE TO BOTH JEW AND GENTILE BY FAITH! Gentiles did not have to become Jews to receive salvation, but only had to BELIEVE BY FAITH, to become full members of God's family.

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: (To be discussed in the next few weeks)

The Good News that he (Paul) preaches is the only true Good News (gospel).

Paul is a genuine apostle of Christ.

Paul argues that his presentation of the Good News is scriptural and true.

Christian freedom is not a license to sin! It is the only way to overcome sin, live in Christ's love, and to experience the Spirit's POWER.

Living by human effort CANNOT overcome sin—the sinful nature can only produce sinful actions.

Living in the power of the Holy Spirit produces good fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).