

## Galatians 1.1-10

Letter of Paul to the Church in the Roman province of Galatia, in Asia Minor. Written between 49-56. The Galatai were Indo-Aryans, related to Celts and Gauls, who invaded Asia Minor in 279 B.C., and lived in a mountainous area near modern Ankara. The 1C Romans Province of Galatia encompassed Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Pisidian Antioch as well. Paul evangelized this area between A.D. 46-49, and again in 50 and 54 (Acts 13.14-14.23, 16.6, and 18.23).

Outline:

- 1.1-10 Introduction**  
Formalities and the exordium
- 1.11-2.14 Paul's CV and Bona Fides**
- 2.15-21 Rebuke of Opponents**  
Justification by faith in Christ  
Living by Faith
- 3.1-4.31 Proofs of Justification by Faith**  
Six Arguments, particularly centered on Abraham
- 5.1-6.10 Ethical Exhortation**  
Preserve freedom in Christ  
Walk according to the Spirit
- 6.11-18 Conclusion**

## Galatians 1.1-11: Formalities and Exordium

### Introduction (1.1-5)

Paul an *apostolos* – ‘one who is sent’; Used 76 times in the NT, one who is commissioned by God to proclaim with authority the message of salvation in Jesus Christ

- Not from *anthropos*
- But through Jesus Christ and God the Father – Note that they are represented as a team, on the same level (against Arius and Adoptionism)  
Paul's personal commissioning on the Damascus Road (Acts 9.15-16; 22.21; 26.16-18)

- 'Who raised Him (Christ) from the dead' – the attribute of God which is emphasized here
  - 'And from the brethren with me'
- Paul often includes other members of his team in the salutation of his letters: Sosthenes (1 Cor. 1.1); Timothy (2. Cor. 1.1; Phil. 1.1; Col. 1.1); Silas and Timothy (1&2 Thess) -*amanuensis* – Paul's secretary
- To the churches of Galatia – likely the Roman Province of Galatia in Asia Minor (Acts 13.14-14.25)

3 'Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord JC' (Romans 5.12-21); a common blessing of Paul to the churches

#### Christ:

'Gave Himself for our sins' – Ephesians 5.2, 25; 1 Timothy 2.6; Titus 2.14; 1 Cor. 15.3

**Mark 10.45: "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

'That He might deliver/rescue us out of this present evil age'

What are the implications of this description of Christ's mission?

'According to the will of our God and Father'

Doxology

#### **Exordium (1.6-10)**

Amazed that 'you are deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ' (1.15; 5.8)

In Hellenistic philosophy, one who leaves one school for another (Herodotus 7.18.3; Plato Republic 1,345b)

Consider Israel's defections: Exodus 32.8; Judges 2.17

- 'for a different Gospel' – contemporary examples?

What is the analogy behind the rebuke?

What do we call this desertion? Apostacy

7 some 'disturbing/unsettling/confusing you, want to distort/change/pervert the gospel JC'

8 accursed – *anathema*: something delivered over to divine wrath for destruction (Romans 9.3; 1 Cor. 12.3)