

A Tour Through the Divine Library (Galatians)

I. General Introduction to Galatians

- Title and Recipients: “To the Galatians” (1:2); probably the churches of southern Galatia
- Author: the apostle Paul (1:1; 5:2; 6:11)
- Date: If northern Galatia, then AD 56 from Ephesus or Macedonia; if southern Galatia, then AD 49 from Antioch
- Theme and Purpose: justification by faith: defend his apostolic authority; argue theologically for justification by faith; describe the practical impact of justification by faith
- Structure:
 - I. Gospel of Grace Defended (chs. 1, 2)
 - II. Gospel of Grace Explained (chs. 3, 4)
 - III. Gospel of Grace Applied (chs. 5, 6)

II. General Overview of Galatians

- Defense of Paul’s Apostleship (chs. 1, 2): Paul defends his apostolic authority because the authenticity of the gospel rests on it.
- Defense of Justification by Faith Apart from Works of the Law (chs. 3, 4): Judaizers: Q: How will Gentiles be incorporated into the church? A: Through faith in Christ plus the works of the Law; Paul: Q: What makes a person a Christian? A: Faith in Christ alone apart from the works of the Law
- Practical Impact of Justification by Faith (chs. 5, 6): How can the Galatians avoid bondage on the one hand, and lawlessness on the other? By walking in the Spirit (5:1, 13, 16, 18)

III. Prominent People and Themes in Galatians

- People: Paul (1:1; 5:2); Peter (1:18; 2:7-14); Barnabas (2:1, 9, 13); James (1:19; 2:9, 12); John (2:9); Titus (2:1, 3); the Judaizers (*et al*), Abraham (3:6-9, 14, 16, 18; 4:22; see also Rom. 2:28, 29; 4:1-25; 9:8)
- Themes: ●Justification by Faith (2:16): “God the Father’s verdict of acquittal and declaration of righteousness (Rom. 8:33). This verdict is pronounced on behalf of guilty sinners who believe in Christ (Rom. 5:1). It’s based upon the virtue of Christ’s perfect life and atoning death on the cross (Rom. 5:18) credited to their account, their sin and guilt being credited to Christ’s account (2 Cor. 5:21). It results in the pardon of all their sins, acceptance with God, and the gift of eternal life.”; ●The Law (3:10-24; see also Rom. 8:3, 4); ●The Holy Spirit (5:16-18; see also Rom. 8:13)

IV. Christ in Galatians

-Christ has secured spiritual liberty from both legalism (bondage to the Law) and license (slavery to sin) through His sufferings and death on the cross (1:4; 3:13; 4:4, 5; 5:1, 13, 24).

V. Practical Lessons in Galatians

- 1) Maintain a healthy concern for the importance of sound doctrine.
- 2) Make proper practical application of justification by faith.