Galatians 1

Introduction:
- Find a Bible map and locate Galatia.
- What congregations were located in Galatia? Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13.13-14, 14.16, 21-24)
- These congregations were established on Paul’s first missionary journey

Setting:
- This was an all-out emergency letter, a last minute attempt to pull the Christians there away from false doctrine
- Paul had to be rather rough on them (not like Romans, Philemon, etc.)

Galatians 1.1-5
This was a classic first century opening:
1. The person sending the letter
2. The person to whom the letter was addressed
3. A word of greeting

V 1 – Where did Paul rank himself as an Apostle? Least (1 Corinthians 15.9)
- Why? Because he had persecuted the church
- But he still considered himself to be an Apostle
- Who made him an Apostle? Jesus Christ and God the Father
- How had God the Father proven himself? Raising Jesus from the dead

V 2 – Letter addressed to? Christians in Galatia

V 3 – Grace (xpapis) and peace (shalom) – to both the Gentile and Hebrew Christians

V 4 – What did Jesus do for us? Gave himself for our sins
Notice "this present evil age"
- What about today? Give examples of the current morals in United States

V 5 – Glory to God the Father

Galatians 1.6-10

V 6 – What was so amazing to Paul? That these congregations had left the faith so quickly
- What had thy left the truth for? A different gospel

V 7 – Is there really such a thing as a different gospel? No – really only one gospel (“good news”)
- What did these false teachers want to do? Disturb people and distort the gospel (because of their evil motives)

V 8 – Notice “we” – Meaning: Don’t trust the man, but place your trust in the gospel
- Fate of person who teaches false gospel? Accused in the eyes of God
- So this was not a minor thing that was happening in Galatia
V 9 – Why did Paul repeat himself? Emphasis

V 10 – What were these false teachers trying to do? Please men
  -And Paul? Please God
  -In many denominational churches, the main goal is to do the same thing (just to be pleasing in the eyes of our society)

**Galatians 1.11-17**

V 11 – Where did Paul not receive his gospel from? From men

V 12 – Where had Paul gotten this gospel? From a revelation of Jesus Christ
  -We are not to add to the gospel of Christ (as Joseph Smith did in the *Book of Mormon*)

V 13 – What does Paul confess about his background? He had been a terrible persecutor of the church and had tried to destroy the church
  -Why go over these things? Paul was not just in this for the money, etc.

V 14 – Paul’s record as a Jew? Excellent (had everything going for him)

V 15 – But God wanted to use Paul
  -When was Paul “set apart” for God’s purposes? In the womb
  -Application? Abortion is murder – God respects life even in the womb

V 15-16 – What had God chosen Paul to do in life? Preach the gospel among the Gentiles

V 16-17 – What did Paul do when he was first converted? Went to Arabia (1200 miles south of Damascus) and then returned to Damascus
  -What did he do in Arabia? We don’t know for sure, but probably he got his thoughts straightened out, he studied the Old Testament Scriptures on Jesus, etc.
  -He had to rebuild his whole system of thought

**Galatians 1.18-24**

V 18-19 – What did Paul do three years later? Go to Jerusalem
  -Who did he see there? Peter and James
  -See *Beacon Bible Commentary*, IX, 38 for resolution here – check Robert Taylor and W. Barclay and Gospel Advocate *Commentary on Galatians*

V 20 – Paul assured them that this was the truth

V 21 – Where did Paul go next? Syria and Cilicia
  -Cilicia – location for Tarsus (Paul’s hometown)
  -Why go back home? Continuing to collect his thoughts
V 22 – Why did the Christians in Judea not know what Paul looked like? No photos (remember how Judas had to identify Jesus)

V 23 – What rumor was circulating about Paul? He had changed from persecutor to gospel preacher

V 24 – Reaction? Happy because of it

Lessons from this chapter:
   Trust Galatians 1 – Paul had proven his sincerity and would never compromise, and we should never stray from the gospel of Christ

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Galatians 2

Galatians 2.1-10
V 1 – When was Paul’s next visit to Jerusalem? Fourteen years later
   -Who went with Paul back to Jerusalem? Barnabas and Titus

V 2 – Why did Paul return? A revelation from Jesus
   -What did Paul say at Jerusalem? Explained the gospel he had been preaching to the Gentiles
   -Remember when Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and baptized them – he had to explain himself at Jerusalem
   -Private or public meeting first? Private
   -Why? Always wise
   -Paul didn’t want all of his work ruined because of any stubborn people at the church in Jerusalem

V 3 – Titus was not forced to be circumcised
   -Meaning? Old Law was no longer binding

V 4 – But what happened at Jerusalem? False teachers (holding to the Old Law) tried to make circumcision binding
   -They tried to bring the first century Christians into “bondage”
   -It is the same today with people who say we can’t eat in the building, can't eat certain foods, etc.
   -People who claim to be Christians often try to bind things on other Christians which the Bible does not bind

V 5 – What was Paul’s reaction to them? “We didn’t give in to them even an hour”

V 6 – Who attacked Paul? “Those of high reputation”
   -In other words, the ones who had a lot of fame and power, the big shots
   -Did they impress Paul? No, God does not show partiality

V 7 – How did Paul’s “assignment” compare with Peter’s? Paul = to the Gentiles, Peter = to the Jews

V 8 – Peter and Paul had both worked with God’s blessings

V 9 – Who supported Paul? James, Peter, John, Barnabas
   -Interesting: right hand of fellowship
   -Some people think that we are required to have a "holy kiss" in greeting fellow Christians, but a handshake will work just as well

V 10 – One request of these brethren? To remember the poor
   -Paul had been collecting money for the poor in Jerusalem
Galatians 2.11-21

V 11 – Cephas = Peter
  -How did Paul treat Peter? Opposed him to his face
  -Why? He stood condemned

V 12 – How did he used to behave? He ate with the Gentiles
  -But when the Jews arrived? He ate only with them
  -Why? He was afraid to offend the Jews (he feared them)

V 13 – How bad did it get? All Jews and even Barnabas were led astray (notice the influence of Peter)

V 14 – Peter had spent time in Antioch and had adopted customs of Gentiles
  -Reasoning of Paul? How could Peter now compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? It doesn’t make sense

V 15 – Paul: This is not “sour grapes” – Paul was a Jew, just as Peter was (in other words, Paul did have any selfish motives)

V 16 – But? Being a Jew meant nothing to God now
  -Explain v 16? It is impossible to keep the Old Law perfectly

V 17 – If it is bad to be just a Christian (and not a Jew), then Christ has produced sin (in other words, an argument against Jewish racism)

V 18 – What had Paul once destroyed? His faith to the Old Testament (and Jewish traditions, etc.)

V 19 – What had Paul done to the Old Law? He had died to it

V 20 – A beautiful verse
  -Paul: We are new people in Christ (no longer Jews and Gentiles)
  -Notice emphasis on “me” in v 20 – Salvation was very personal for Paul

V 21 – Paul: To show prejudice against Gentile Christians is to destroy the Christian faith

Lessons from this chapter:
  -Even great Christian people (such as Peter and Barnabas) can be led astray
  -Christians are not to be prejudiced (no racial jokes or slang terms)

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Galatians 3

Galatians 3.1-5
V 1 – How did Paul see the condition of the Christians in Galatia? Greatly deceived (an emergency letter) – The pure gospel had been preached to them, but now they had been deceived

V 2 – Paul’s question? How were they saved: by the Holy Spirit or Old Law? (Spirit)

V 3 – Trusting in the flesh = relying on Old Law, just because they were Jews

V 4 – Paul: Were you persecuted because of the Old Testament? Answer: No

V 5 – How do miracles come about? Spirit or Old Law? (Holy Spirit, the author of the New Testament)

Galatians 3.6-14
V 6 – Paul’s example? Abraham
- A quote from Genesis 15.6
- Meaning? Abraham was justified before circumcision

V 7 – Who are the sons of Abraham? Those who live by faith and not by works

V 8 – Why did God work it out in the Old Testament for Abraham to be justified before his works? To set an example so that the Gentiles could someday be saved (without Old Testament works)
- Notice: “the gospel” was preached to Abraham

V 9 – Who gets the blessing? Those who walk by faith

V 10 – Quote from Deuteronomy 27.26
- Meaning? All under the Old Law were cursed, because no one could keep it perfectly (Paul is attacking the Judaizing teachings)

V 11-12 – Paul’s conclusion? The Old Law couldn’t justify anyone (all have sinned)

V 13 – How then are we saved? Because Christ (not the Old Law) became a curse for us
- Quote from Deuteronomy 21.23

V 14 – So salvation has now come to the Gentiles – brilliant reasoning!

Galatians 3.15-22
V 15 – What happens to a will after a person dies? No one can change it
V 16 – Paul is now referring to the promise made to Abraham
   -What was the promise? Genesis 17.1-3 – seed to be multiplied
   -Genesis 22.18 – his seed would bless the whole world

V 17 – Which was the law that came 430 years later? The Law of Moses
   -Did the Law of Moses multiply the promise to Abraham? No

V 18 – So was the promise to Abraham based on the Law of Moses? No
   -Paul’s is showing that the Law of Moses was temporary; there was no reason to go back to it.

V 19 – What was the purpose of the Law of Moses? To hold down sin and to give forgiveness temporarily until the Savior would come

V 20 – The mediator would be for all (not just Jews)

V 21 – Somebody might have accused Paul of not liking the Law of Moses
   -But problem with the Law of Moses? It couldn’t “give life”
   -in other words, it condemned people

V 22 – All are condemned by the Law of Moses
   -Value of that? It forces (or allows) people to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ

Galatians 3.23-29
V 23 – The Old Testament is in custody (because we could not keep it perfectly)

V 24 – So what purpose did the Old Testament serve? A “tutor” to prepare us for Christ

V 25 – Role of the Old Testament now? We are no longer bound by the Old Testament (tremendous logic here)

V 26 – Saved by faith? Yes
   -How? Next verse

V 27 – Importance of baptism? “Into” Christ and “clothed” with Christ
   -Can one be saved before baptism? No

V 28 – Purpose of this verse? No distinctions in Christians between Jews and Gentiles – all are acceptable to God through the gospel

V 29 – What makes a person a child of Abraham? Accepting Christ and his gospel
   -Some tremendous lessons from this chapter about no permanent forgiveness under the Old Law

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Galatians 4

Galatians 4.1-7

**V 1** – How does Paul describe a child in a wealthy family, as compared to a slave for the family? While they are both young, they have no inheritance and no rights

**V 2** – But when does that comparison change? When the children of the father reach the legal age of adulthood, then they receive the blessings of the father

**V 3** – So what was it like for the Jews under the Law of Moses? They were like the children of the father, but they had not reached the legal age of "adulthood"

**V 4** – When did that relationship change in God's plan of salvation? At the right time, Christ was born into this world, and the plan of eternal salvation began to unfold
-What were the characteristics of "the fullness of time"?
  -The Romans had established an extensive system of roads
  -There was a language of business and the common people that was perfect for the writing of the gospel (Koine Greek)
  -Alexander the Great had been defeated, and the Romans had established a stable world with a system of laws that our laws are still based on today
-In other words, God had prepared the world for the coming of his son "in the fullness of time"

**V 5** – What was the goal of God's plan of salvation? Both those who had lived under the Law of Moses and also those who would be "adopted" by God could be saved

**V 6** – Since we are all now children of God, we can approach our Father in heaven with terms of endearment (Abba, Father)
-The word Abba is an Aramaic word which is a term of endearment of a child for his father – The equivalent in English would be something like "papa"
-It shows the love and close ties that a child has for his father; it was not a term that a slave would use for his master

**V 7** – Even the "slaves" (Gentiles) can now receive the inheritance from the father (Paul's point exactly)
-This is absolutely great language and great logic that allowed Gentiles to enter into God's plan of eternal salvation
**Galatians 4.8-11**

**V 8** – What was the situation of the Gentiles before they became Christians? They worshipped the gods of nature (which are not real gods)

**V 9** – But since they had become saved through Christ, what is so tragic about their situation? They had turned back to their old false religions

-in other words, they had obeyed the gospel of Christ, but had turned away from it and had fallen away from the faith

**V 10** – They observed "holy days," in contradiction to the one "holy day" (the first day of the week) in the Christian dispensation

**V 11** – What was Paul's deepest concern? That he had wasted his time on the first missionary journey in establishing congregations in Galatia

**Galatians 4.12-20**

**V 12** – Paul breaks up his condemnation of the churches of Galatia with some loving comments from his heart

-We cannot be sure of the background of these verses, but it appears that he possibly did not originally intend to visit Galatia, but had done so because of some illness

-He either went to Galatia because of this illness or remained there because he was ill

**V 13** – His illness resulted in his preaching the gospel in these cities of Galatia

**V 14** – And his illness made his appearance rather revolting (or disgusting)

-But how did they receive the apostle, even with this terrible appearance? With great respect, even as they would have welcomed an angel of God or even Jesus Christ himself

**V 15** – How much had they loved the Apostle Paul at that time? They would have given him their own eyes, if they could have

-Thousands and thousands of words have been written about Paul's "thorn in the flesh," but we have a clue here that it had to do with his eyes

-Notice how Paul generally did not write his own letter, but rather dictated them

-Read these Scriptures:
  *Acts 23.1-5* (Paul did not recognize the high priest)
  *Romans 16.22*
  *Galatians 6.11*
  *1 Cor. 16.21*
Col. 4.18
2 Thess. 4.15
-These passages might explain why the Galatians had such love and sympathy for Paul that they would have given him their eyes, if they could have
-Why didn't the New Testament just come right out and give us details of Paul's affliction? Because people would say down through the centuries, "Oh, that's nothing – my disease is much worse than what Paul was complaining about. He should have had to deal with….as I deal with every day"
-In many cases, people think they have the worst affliction known to mankind, and nobody can "out brag" them
-So the Holy Spirit chose not to reveal the exact nature of Paul thorn in the flesh, but these Scriptures do indicate that it had to do with his eyes

V 16 – What a great rhetorical question – Today, as in Paul's day, the "enemy" is the one who speaks the truth
-Why do people consider him to be the enemy? Because they do not want to hear the truth (it would condemn them)

V 17 – What was the goal of the false teachers? To take advantage of those who are led astray (the same today, with the many false teachers in the religious world)

V 18 – Paul wanted the love and attention of the Christians in Galatia, but not just when he was with them, but when he was preaching in other parts of the world

V 19 – How did Paul describe his current relationship with these congregations? As a woman in labor; they still were being formed, but had not yet achieved maturity in the Christian faith

V 20 – Paul could not understand how they could have departed from the faith to this degree

Galatians 4.21-31
V 21 – Paul returns to attacking the basic false doctrines in the churches in Galatia
-The false doctrine? Going back under the Old Testament (Law of Moses)

V 22 – How many sons did Abraham have? Two
-By whom? Sarah and Hagar

V 23 – Which one was son of the flesh and which one was the son of promise?
-Ishmael was the son of the flesh, and Isaac was the son of the promise

V 24 – What did these two women represent? Sarah = covenant, Hagar = slavery
V.25 – What places did they represent? Sarah = Jerusalem, Hagar = Mt. Sinai

V.26 – Which city represents the Christian faith? Jerusalem
   - Paul shows that even the Jewish false teachers did not trace their ancestry back to Mt. Sinai, but to Jerusalem

V.27 – Isaiah 54.1 – This verse seems to say that the descendants of Hagar are more numerous than the descendants of Sarah (other interpretations are possible)

V.28 – But it doesn’t make any difference – because the Jews were children of the promise (up until the cross of Christ)

V.29 – Names of two sons? Isaac and Ishmael
   - Older? Ishmael – he persecuted Isaac and had to be sent away (Genesis 21.9)

V.30 – Ishmael and Hagar were cast out

V.31 – Paul’s conclusion? Christians are children of the promise (and this includes Gentiles and Jews)

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Galatians 5

Galatians 5.1-4

V 1. – What were the First Century Christians free from? Old Testament
- Paul’s commandment? Keep standing firm
- What does this do to the doctrine of Once Saved Always Saved? It destroys it

V 2. – Paul’s statement on circumcision? Don’t do it as a part of our faith in Christ
- Why not? It is no longer a religious act (it can be done for health reasons, but not as a part of the Christian faith)

V 3. – If a man is circumcised as a part of the Old Law, what are the consequences? He will have to keep all of the Old Law (which is impossible)

V 4. – Result of going back to Old Law? Fallen from grace
- Grace for everybody? Yes – but we must obey the Bible
- This verse also destroys a major doctrine of the false teachers today, that once we are saved, we cannot ever be lost!
- What else could the Bible possibly say to destroy this false doctrine?

Galatians 5.5-12

V 5. – Why use “we”? In contradistinction to the false teachers in Galatia

V 6. – What counts in Christ? Faith working through love – best verse in Bible on the plan of salvation

V 7. – History of Galatian Christians? They were running well

V 8. – Where did false doctrine not come from? Not from Christ

V 9. – The danger with false doctrine? It spreads

V 10. – What did Paul hope for? Galatians should get straightened out
- Then the false teachers would suffer

V 11. – Some must have accused Paul of preaching that people had to be circumcised
- His answers? “Why am I persecuted?”
- In other words, "If I am preaching that Christian men have to be circumcised, then why are the Judaizing teachers persecuting me?"

V 12. – Paul’s wish? That they would cut up themselves = cut themselves off from the children of God
**Galatians 5.13-15**

V 13 – We have many freedoms under the New Testament

-For example, the freedom to be circumcised or not to be circumcised

-Our attitude? Leave it as a matter of opinion

V 14 – Sum of the Old Law? Serving and loving others

V 15 – What happens when people in church attack others? They get destroyed also (those who live by the sword...)

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**Galatians 5.16-21**

V 16 – Instructions of Paul? Walk by the Spirit

V 17 – Difference between flesh and spirit? Flesh = fights, the Spirit = peace

-We have to choose how we will conduct ourselves

V 18 – Under Spirit means...? Not under Old Law


-Go over the deeds of the flesh

  -(sexual) immorality

  -impurity

  -sensuality

V 20 – idolatry

-sorcery

-enmities,

-strife

-jealousy

-outbursts of anger

-disputes

-dissentions

-factions

V 21 – envyings

-drunkenness

-carousings

-things like these

-Explain “and things like these” Anything that goes along with these is wrong

-Result of doing these things? Such people are not in the Kingdom of God
Galatians 5.22-26

V 22 – Notice: “fruit” is singular
-It is not Scriptural to refer to the "fruits" of the Spirit (although many people make this mistake
-Significance? We do not choose which ones we want to live by – all are to be present
-The "fruit" of the Spirit means that we cannot say, "Well, I have peace in my life, but my self-control is lacking, but that doesn't matter, since I have most of the fruits of the Spirit"
-Wrong – we either take them all as one unit, or we are deficient – it is an "all or nothing" lifestyle, according to the Holy Spirit

V 23 – There is no law against these things
-It is like eating healthy food – we can eat as much as we want to eat

V 24 – If we are Christians…? We have crucified the old way of life

V 25 – Emphasis? To walk – not just in theory, but in practice

V 26 – Final warning? Let us have the proper attitude toward our fellow Christians

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**Galatians 6**

**Galatians 6.1-5**

**V 1.** – Significance of “caught”? Caught “red-handed”
- Even if we catch a man stealing money… - worst kind of situation (not just rumors anymore)
- What should other members of the church do? Try to restore that person
- Attitude? Gentleness – try to repair the person’s life
- Attitude toward self? Careful that we don’t fall into the same sin

**V 2.** – How can we help to bear the burdens of those who are suffering? Sympathize with people, send cards, send food, do babysitting, cut the grass, give encouraging words to the person
- Notice the law of Christ – a law we are under (not just saved by grace of God)

**V 3.** – What about the one who thinks he is great? He is only fooling himself

**V 4.** – What are we to do? Be thankful for whatever we have accomplished in life

**V 5.** – Explain – The strong bear their own loads, plus help weaker Christians
- Why this information here in Galatians 6? Some of the false teachers may have repented and needed forgiveness
- Remember the church at Corinth – they had trouble forgiving the man who had repented

**Galatians 6.6-10**

**V 6.** – How should we use our money? To help support the person who taught us the gospel
- The church should support the local preacher (see 1 Corinthians 9.1-18), and the church can also support a full-time elder (see 1 Timothy 5.17-18)

**V 7.** – Some apparently were not supporting their preachers properly
- Paul’s comment? You will reap what you sow
- Any exceptions? No (corn, wheat, etc.)
- We can choose a lifestyle, but we cannot choose the consequences
- Even with forgiveness, the consequences are still there
- It is as certain as the law of gravity

**V 8.** – Sowing to the flesh? Corruption
- Sowing to the Spirit? Life

**V 9.** – Problems with sowing to the Spirit? The rewards do not come immediately (in contrast to sowing to the flesh)

**V 10.** – Principle? Do all the good we can
- Some say that the church cannot help non-Christians out of the church treasury, but this verse refutes that idea
**Galatians 6.11-14**


V12 – Reason for false teaching? To avoid persecution

V13 – They violate the law

V14 – In what does Paul boast? Cross of Christ

  -Meaning “world crucified to me”? The world no longer appealed to Paul

**Galatians 6.15-16**

V15 – The one thing that counts? New Creature (being born again)

V16 – Who is the Israel of God? The Church of Christ

**Galatians 6.17-18**

V17 – Meaning? He had scars from persecution

V18 – Farewell

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