

Outline of Paul's Letter to the Galatians
Basic Training in the Bible, March 17, 2019 (Houghton Hutcheson)

The “**Occasion**” for the writing of Paul’s letter to the Galatians: The disruption of the Galatian churches by the teaching of the “**Judaizers,**” an ultra-Judaistic party who insisted that Gentile converts must be circumcised and adhere to the Mosaic Law to be saved. This was anathema to Paul, who in founding these churches had preached a gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone.¹

I. The Personal Section (Chapters 1-2)

- A. Paul ***defends the source of the gospel*** as being personal and direct revelation by Christ (1:6-12.)
- B. He defends his apostolic credentials and authority in a way that is “direct, intense, and confrontational.”²
- C. The gospel’s authority derives from its divine source, not from any human source.
- D. Though he did not receive his gospel from or by any human agency, it was confirmed by the apostles at Jerusalem.

II. The Doctrinal Section (Chapters 3-4)

- A. Paul ***defends the substance of the gospel*** – that faith, not works of the Law, is the only ground of salvation (3:11-14.)
- B. He tells the Galatians that only the death of Jesus Christ on the cross is able to bring redemption.
- C. Paul uses the example of Abraham to provide proof that salvation (righteousness) has always been by grace alone through faith alone, not by obeying the law.
- D. Abraham had faith and “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” The law came 400+ years later.

III. The Practical Section (Chapters 5-6)

- A. Paul ***defends the application of the gospel*** – a new life in Christ under the control of the Spirit, not the flesh.
- B. Christ has set us free from the tyranny (bondage) of sin and the futility of our own effort (5:1.)
- C. We are now able to live by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (5:16-26.)
- D. Paul’s memorable recitation of the “fruits of the Spirit” appears in this section (5:22-23), contrasted against the “deeds of the flesh” (5:19-21.)

¹ The general content of this outline is adapted from Kenneth G. Hanna, *From Gospels to Glory – Exploring the New Testament*, 236-243.

² *Ibid*, 237.