

The Letter to the Galatians: Introduction & Chapter 1

July 7 – 10, 2024

Introduction:

- What are the main themes of Paul's letter to the Galatians?
- What aspects of this letter make it unique as compared to some of Paul's other letters?

Chapter 1:

(1 – 2) What is the significance of the way that Paul described himself in the introduction of his letter? Who was the audience of the letter, and where was the region of Galatia? What was Paul's experience with the congregations in this region (as recorded in the Book of Acts)? (*Acts 22: 12 – 15*)

(3 – 5) What attributes did Paul pray that God would bestow on the Galatians? How did Paul describe Jesus to his audience, and what did he say about Christ's sacrifice and purpose? How does God expect us to respond to Christ's sacrifice? (*John 3: 16 – 17; Titus 2: 11 – 14*)

(6 – 9) How did Paul describe his reaction to the fact that there were Christians in Galatia that were beginning to follow false doctrine? How did he refer to those who were teaching falsehoods, and what can we learn from Paul's warning? (*1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 4; 2 Corinthians 11: 13 – 15*)

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(10 – 12) What point did Paul make with the questions he posed in verse 10? How did Paul describe his teaching and the source of his information? What can we learn from Paul’s example regarding our willingness and ability to share God’s word with others? (*Acts 5: 27 – 29; 2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17*)

(13 – 14) For what purpose did Paul address his prior status in the Jewish community and his past conduct toward Christians? Based on the themes of the letter, why was this an important part of Paul’s introduction, and how did his comments provide insightful context to the message as he continued? (*Acts 8: 3; Phillipians 3: 4 – 6*)

(15 – 17) What perspective did Paul share regarding the events that transpired following his conversion? What was Paul doing during the period of time that he spent in Damascus and Arabia? How did Paul’s reflections reinforce his prior point regarding the source of his knowledge of the Gospel? (*Acts 9: 20 – 22*)

(18 – 20) Which window of time and events did Paul reference when he used the phrase “after three years”? Why was it important to share the fact that he met with Peter and James for a brief period of time in Jerusalem? What is the basis for Paul’s statement that he is telling the truth? (*Acts 9: 26 – 28; Romans 9: 1*)

(21 – 24) As Paul travelled and taught in the regions of Syria and Cilicia, what did the people know about him and his past? What effect did this knowledge have on the people of those regions? What can we learn from this event regarding the benefit of Paul’s reputation that can assist us in our efforts to share God’s word with others? (*Acts 9: 13 – 16; 1 Peter 2: 11 – 12*)