

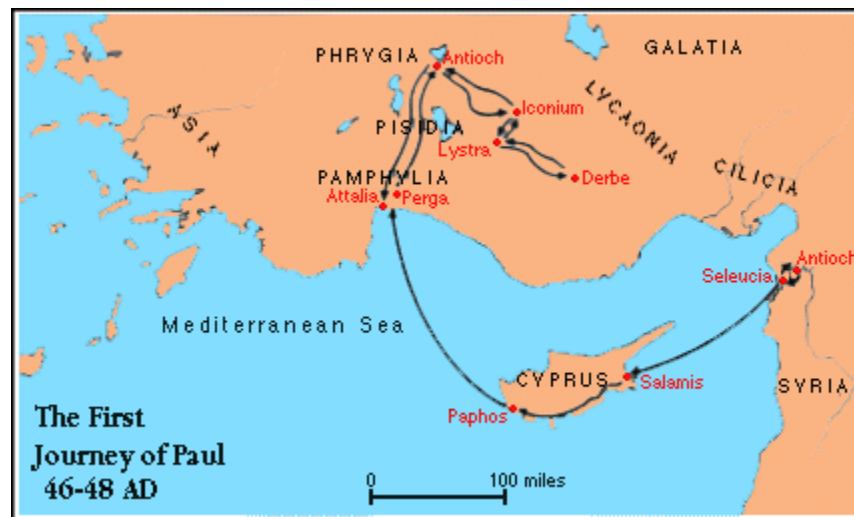
Galatians: *Freedom in Christ*

Introduction

In church history, Galatians, along with Romans, played an integral role in the Protestant Reformation. Tenney says that Galatians was “the cornerstone of the Reformation.” In 1531, Luther was so affected by this epistle that he referred to it as his wife. “*The Epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine.*” It was his favorite book of the Bible.

I. The Author—Pauline authorship is stated clearly (1:1; 5:2).

II. The Audience—After the first missionary journey Paul and Barnabas returned to their home base in Antioch on the Orontes (Acts 14:26-28). Prior to the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15, Judaizing false teachers infiltrated the Galatian churches planted by Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13-14). There may have been one main teacher who was the ringleader of the group (5:10, “the one who is disturbing you”) The gist of the teaching was a denial of Paul’s authority as an apostle and an insistence that the Law be imposed on believers for them to please God with their lives.



III. The Aim—The purpose of Galatians is twofold. First, Paul wrote to defend his apostleship. Second, he wrote to defend justification and sanctification by grace through faith apart from the Law. The main issue is sanctification or how believers live to please God. Justification is discussed because it is the foundation upon which sanctification is based. *The method of justification determines the method of sanctification.*

IV. The Arrangement—

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| I. The Prologue (1:1-10) | | |
| II. The Defense of Apostleship | Personal (1:11–2:21) | <i>Autobiographical</i> |
| III. The Doctrine of Sanctification | Doctrinal (3:1–4:31) | <i>Theological</i> |
| IV. The Duty of Sanctification | Practical (5:1–6:10) | <i>Ethical</i> |
| V. The Postlude (6:11-18) | | |

V. The Analysis

I. The Prologue (1:1-10)

II. The Defense of Apostleship Personal (1:11–2:21)

III. The Doctrine of Sanctification Doctrinal (3:1–4:31)

IV. The Duty of Sanctification Practical (5:1–6:10)

V. The Postlude (6:11-18)

VI. The Application