

- the letter to the Galatians was unique in the sense that it was the only letter Paul wrote to a region and not a single city or church
- Paul had established several churches in Galatia (Pisidia, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe)
  - he established them on his 1<sup>st</sup> trip and revisited them on his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> mission trips
- \*it is here that Paul would meet Timothy (Acts 16:1-3)
- the north region of Galatia was first settled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC by Celtic tribes that had been driven out of Gaul (modern France)
  - Galatia means "land of the Gauls"
- the last king of Galatia, Amyntas, died in 25 BC and Rome inherited the region after that (After that, Caesar Augustus annexed districts in the southern region including Pisidia, Isauria, Phrygia, and Lycaonia to make up the new region of Galatia)
- Galatia was the central part of modern day Turkey
- the letter to the Galatians was written shortly after the Council of Jerusalem in 49 or 50 AD (This council was to determine whether salvation was by faith alone or by faith and Mosaic Law observation- See Acts 15)
  - \* the theme of this book is justification by faith
- groups of teachers known as Judaizers were in Galatia and were teaching that salvation was faith in Christ and observing Jewish Law
  - these groups were also making claims of Paul's apostleship being inadequate due to him not being of the original 12 ( with this, they were saying he was only preaching partial truth)
- vs.1- "apostle"- (apostolos) a delegate, one sent forth with orders
  - the apostles were special ambassadors chosen and trained by the Lord to lay the foundation of the early church (they were used as channels of God's completed revelation- Eph.2:19-21)
  - "neither by man"- this is a defense against the Judaizers' attack on his apostleship
- this book gives some information on Paul between his conversion and first mission trip-vs.16-18 (Acts gives barely anything on Paul's life during these few years)
- Paul emphasizes in this chapter about how Christ called him to be an apostle before he even met the other apostles
- \* According to Acts 1:22, apostles were ones who were physical witnesses of the Resurrection
- vs.2- Paul includes his fellow laborers in his greeting
- vs.3- "grace" and "peace"- notice even how Paul's greeting contradicts the Judaizers' teachings (If salvation is by works as they claimed, then it is not of grace and cannot result in peace) Why? Because no one can be sure he/she has enough good works to be eternally secure
- vs.4- "for our sins"- Paul is reminding them of the price of redemption
- Truth- to claim faith plus keeping the Law is the same as saying Christ's death was insufficient
  - \* sin cannot be avoided, overlooked, or worked off (it must be forgiven)
  - \* it can only be forgiven if there is a ransom paid- Matt.20:28
- "deliver"- notice the pronouns he uses here- "Himself" & "He" (Again Paul confirms that its all Jesus and not anything we can do)
- "God and our Father"- Paul is not implying that God and our Father are different beings, but that He is both
- vs.5- "glory"- (doxa) splendor, majesty, excellence, preeminence (This is a term attributed to one who holds the highest rank)
- Truth- there are many today that can't comprehend that salvation cannot be bought or earned
  - if we could earn it, then that would mean God is in our debt until He repays it
- \* God has never owed His creation anything- we receive of Him because He is full of grace and mercy- Heb.9:11-12