

“JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH ALONE”

The Letter to the Galatians

Who wrote The Letter to the Galatians?

The Letter to the Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul.

How did The Letter to the Galatians get its name and/or what does that name mean?

Galatians was named for the Church established in the Roman province of Galatia, a part of what is modern-day Turkey.

When did these events take place?

Scholars believe there are two possibilities? If the letter was intended for the people in the south, it was probably written between 48 and 50 A.D. If it was intended for the church in the north, it was probably written between 54 and 55 A.D.

For more about The Letter to the Galatians:

See page 1268 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

It's interesting to notice how difficult it is for some older people to embrace technology. Maybe you've noticed this tendency in a grandparent or an old family friend. Most of the time, they won't have anything to do with computers or other things that have been developed to make all our lives easier. You can't imagine them using a PDA or a cell phone. Some of them will even give you a hard time for using a calculator. You might hear them say things like, "I learned math the old way and I get along just fine." Because they cling to the past, these people plug along, never taking advantage of life's conveniences.

A lot of people viewed Jesus much the same way. They refused to recognize that He was the fulfillment of age-old prophecy. Jesus represented the "new covenant," a whole new way of thinking. He required that those who believed in him disregard their old ways. People could come to Him without first believing in Jewish tradition and without following Mosaic Law.

Like someone who refuses to see how technology can improve their life, many of the missionaries in Galatia refused to see Jesus in this new light. Even though they preached faith in Christ, they thought that it could only occur fully if a person came to him through the practice of old Jewish traditions. When Paul got word of this false message, he fired off this letter to the Galatians, an emotional appeal to reassure the members of the church that they did not have to do as these "Judaizers" were telling them. In his letter, Paul reasserts that faith in Jesus is all that is required for salvation, regardless of your heritage.

Paul's letter reminds us that, as it is today, the early church was under constant attack by false messengers. Galatians also makes us realize that sometimes what is new makes what is old obsolete. Paul's most important message is that when we follow Jesus, the benefit is not just short term but will last forever.

Interesting Fact: Freedom in the Letter to the Galatians refers to having the choice to ignore Mosaic law as a follower of Christ. The word slavery is used to imply being trapped by Mosaic law prohibiting the practice of Christianity as Jesus intended.

Bonus Point: Who preceded Paul on the Gentile mission?