

# GALATIANS

**AUTHOR:**

Paul cites his authorship in 1:1 and 5:2.

**DATE:**

Paul wrote this letter somewhere between the years of 48-58 A.D.

**AUDIENCE:**

The recipients of Galatians were members of the church in Galatia. Galatia was a gentile Roman province, located in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).

**CONTEXT:**

Paul established the church in Galatia on one of his missionary journeys. Some time after Paul had been in Galatia he is informed that there are problems within the church. A group of legalistic Jewish leaders were telling the Galatians that they must also live under the Law of Moses to be saved. There were attacks made against Paul and the message he was preaching. To refute these misguided teachings Paul writes his letter to the Galatians.

**PURPOSE:**

Galatians served to disprove the accusations made by the legalistic Jewish leaders. Paul was accused of not being a true apostle. An apostle was someone who witnessed the life of Jesus. By claiming that Paul was not a true apostle they were also trying to claim his message was not true. Therefore, Paul's letter illustrates his true apostolic calling. Paul then was able to make sure the Galatians knew that it is only through Jesus Christ that one can be saved. The accusations claimed that this was not enough—one had to also live like a Jew. Paul assured the Galatians that he preached the true Gospel. Finally Paul's letter was written to show that it is not through outward actions but an inward transformation to be like Christ that one lives as a Christian. Paul's letter was written to make sure the church understood that man is justified, relieved from or found innocent, by faith in Jesus Christ.

