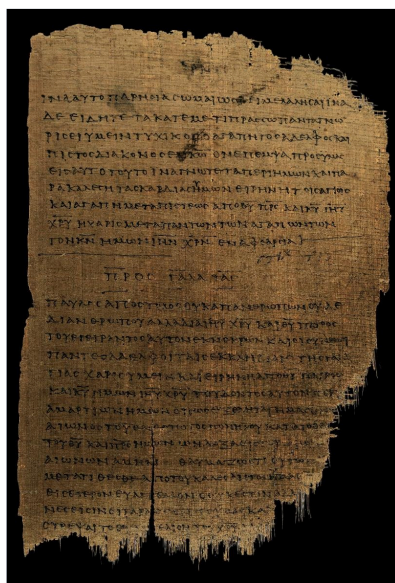


GALATIANS

Jesus Plus Nothing

AUTHOR	Paul, 1:1. Nobody doubts it. Even scholars who question some of Paul's letters agree he wrote this one.
WRITTEN TO	The churches of Galatia, 1:2, a Roman province in the middle of what is now Turkey. More than one church got this letter, so it was passed around.
DATE WRITTEN	Many date it about AD 48 to 49, which would make it Paul's first letter in the Bible. Others date it AD 53 to 57. See the setting below.
WHY HE WROTE	Teachers came in saying Gentile believers had to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to really be saved, 5:2 and 6:12. Paul says that is a different gospel.
KEY VERSE	Galatians 2:16. A man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.



THE OLDEST COPY OF GALATIANS

This is a page of Papyrus 46, a book of Paul's letters copied in Egypt about AD 200, now at the University of Michigan. The top lines are the end of Ephesians. Then a line, and the title *PROS GALATAS*, To the Galatians. Below it, Galatians begins: Paul, an apostle, sent not from men nor by man. The bottom lines reach 1:8, even if we or an angel from heaven.

THE ORDER OF THE BOOKS. In this old book, Galatians comes right after Ephesians, not after 2 Corinthians like in our Bibles. Early Christians did not all put Paul's letters in the same order.

WHY IT MATTERS. See the 1 Corinthians title page, p. x, for how this book was found. Copied only about 150 years after Paul wrote, it says what our Bibles say today.

Historical Setting

The word Galatia comes from Celts, the same people as the Gauls, who moved into the middle of Turkey about 278 BC. In 25 BC Rome turned their kingdom into a big province called Galatia. It stretched south to cities Paul visited on his first trip: Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, Acts 13 to 14. Most scholars today think he wrote to those southern churches, maybe about AD 48 to 49, right before the big meeting in Jerusalem in Acts 15. Others think he meant the Celtic Galatians up north near Ankara, visited in Acts 16:6 and 18:23, and that he wrote about AD 53 to 57. Either way, after Paul left, teachers showed up and told his new believers that Jesus was not enough.

What Was Going Wrong

JESUS PLUS RULES. Teachers said Gentile believers had to be circumcised to belong to God's people, 5:2 to 3 and 6:12 to 13.

TURNING SO QUICKLY. The Galatians were deserting the gospel fast, 1:6.

ATTACKING PAUL. Some said Paul was not a real apostle and got his message secondhand, 1:1 and 1:11 to 12.

HOLY DAYS. They started keeping special days, months, seasons and years to earn God's favor, 4:10.

PETER SLIPPED TOO. Even Peter and Barnabas stopped eating with Gentile believers out of fear, 2:12 to 13.

BITING EACH OTHER. The church was tearing itself apart, 5:15.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Galatians is Paul's angriest letter, and the reason is simple. Some people were telling new believers that Jesus was a great start, but to really be right with God they also had to keep the rules. Paul says no. You are made right with God by trusting Jesus, period. Add anything to Him and you lose Him. But that freedom is not a license to sin. It is freedom to love, led by the Holy Spirit. If you have ever felt like you have to earn God's love, this letter is for you.

Galatians at a Glance

CH 1 to 2

PAUL'S STORY

His gospel came from Jesus, and even Peter got corrected.

CH 3 to 4

THE ARGUMENT

Abraham, the curse, adoption and Hagar and Sarah.

CH 5 to 6

LIVING FREE

Freedom, the fruit of the Spirit and reaping what you sow.

Where Jesus Shows Up

GALATIANS 1:4 He gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age. Fulfills Isaiah 53:6.

GALATIANS 3:13 Christ became a curse for us, because cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. Fulfills Deuteronomy 21:23.

GALATIANS 3:16 The promised Seed of Abraham is one Person, Christ. Fulfills Genesis 12:7 and 22:18.

GALATIANS 4:4 When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman. Fulfills Genesis 3:15.

What to Watch for in Galatians

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	1:3-5, 3:8, 3:13, 3:16, 4:4-5
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	4:22-31
THE HEART	4:6
DEMONIC	3:14, 4:8, 5:20
NOTABLE	2:20, 5:1, 5:22-23, 6:7-9
JESUS SPEAKING	Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

LUTHER'S WIFE

Martin Luther loved this letter more than any other. He said Galatians was his epistle, the one he was engaged to, his Katie von Bora, which was his wife's name. His lectures on it, printed in 1535, helped spread the Reformation.

THE CELTS WHO STILL SPOKE CELTIC

About AD 387, Jerome wrote that the Galatians up north still spoke a language almost like the one he had heard near Trier, in Germany. So some of Paul's readers may have been cousins of the Gauls.

WELCOMED LIKE AN ANGEL

Paul says they welcomed him like an angel of God, 4:14. At Lystra in South Galatia, the crowd thought Paul was the god Hermes and tried to offer sacrifices to him, Acts 14:11 to 13.

ABBA

Abba is the Aramaic word a child calls his father. Jesus prayed it, Mark 14:36, and Paul says the Spirit in us cries it too, 4:6.

BIG LETTERS

Paul usually spoke his letters to a helper who wrote them down. Here he grabs the pen and writes the end in large letters himself, 6:11.

NO THANK YOU

Every other letter Paul wrote to a church opens with thanks or praise. Galatians jumps straight from hello to I am amazed you are deserting, 1:6.

Did Anybody Listen?

Yes. The church leaders met in Jerusalem and agreed Gentile believers do not have to be circumcised, Acts 15:19. Paul went back through Galatia to strengthen the churches, Acts 16:4 to 5, and Timothy, a young man from Lystra, joined his team. Later the Galatian churches gave to Paul's offering for the poor, 1 Corinthians 16:1. Fifteen hundred years later, a German monk named Martin Luther read this letter and was set free by it. The fight in Galatia became the fight of the Reformation.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul skips the thank you notes and goes straight to the problem. The Galatians are already turning to a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all. Even if an angel preaches something else, let him be cursed. Paul got his message straight from Jesus, not from a committee in Jerusalem.

PAUL'S GREETING TO THE GALATIANS

¹Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead— ²and all the brothers with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

NO OTHER GOSPEL

⁶I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be under a curse!

PAUL PREACHES THE GOSPEL

¹⁰Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹For I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached was not devised by man. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I

taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how severely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE CITY · DEBATED WHETHER THIS IS GALATIA

ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA

GALATIANS 1:2 · ACTS 13:14 TO 52



The main paved street of Antioch of Pisidia, with the theater ruins on the hill. Photo Dosseman, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

The ruins of a Roman city near the town of Yalvaç in central Turkey. Visitors walk its paved main street, a theater, a temple to the emperor Augustus, and a large church named for Paul.

HOW OLD IT IS

Greek kings founded the city about 280 BC. Augustus made it a Roman colony about 25 BC and settled army veterans there. The street and buildings you see are mostly from the Roman era, the first few centuries AD. The church of Paul was built in the 300s. Some say it sits over the synagogue where Paul preached, but that is not proven.

PAUL WAS HERE

On his first trip, Paul preached a long sermon in the synagogue here, Acts 13:16 to 41. Almost the whole city came the next Sabbath. Many Gentiles believed, but leaders stirred up trouble and threw Paul and Barnabas out, Acts 13:44 to 50. If Paul wrote Galatians to the southern churches, this was one of them.

■ **GAL 1:2 [FIELD NOTES]** See the Antioch of Pisidia Field Notes page.

■ **GAL 1:3 [FULFILLS]** To make an end of sins ← DAN 9:24a p. —

■ **GAL 1:4 [FULFILLS]** God's will that He bear sin for all mankind ← JS 53:6b p. —

■ **GAL 1:8 [THE BIG QUESTION]** Even an angel from heaven does not get to change the gospel. Judge the message by what it says about Jesus, not by how bright the messenger looks. See the Angel of Light page in 2 Corinthians, p. —.

THE SICKNESS CLUE

Paul says he first preached to them because of an illness, 4:13. Antioch sits about 3,600 feet up. The explorer William Ramsay guessed Paul caught malaria in the swampy coast below and climbed to the cool mountains to get well. It is only a guess.

THE SERGIUS PAULLUS LINK

Inscriptions found here name members of the Sergius Paullus family. A man with that name was the governor of Cyprus who believed just before Paul came here, Acts 13:7 and 13:12. Some think he sent Paul to his family's hometown. That is possible but not proven.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

Just outside Yalvaç, Isparta Province, Turkey. A museum in town holds finds from the site, including pieces of a copy of the emperor's own life story carved in stone.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Antioch was a real Roman colony in the province of Galatia, on the road Paul traveled, just as Acts describes.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not settle whether Paul's letter went to these southern churches or to the Celts up north.

¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not rush to consult with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the apostles who came before me, but I went into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing to you is no lie.

²¹ Later I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown, however, to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the account: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to

destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Fourteen years later Paul checked his gospel with the leaders in Jerusalem, and they shook hands on it. Later in Antioch, Peter stopped eating with Gentiles when the strict crowd showed up, so Paul called him out in front of everyone. We are made right with God by faith in Christ, not by keeping the law.

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM // ACTS 15:5-21

¹ Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, accompanied by Barnabas. I took Titus along also. ² I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I spoke privately to those recognized as leaders, for fear that I was running or had already run in vain. ³ Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

⁴ This issue arose because some false brothers had come in under false pretenses to spy on our freedom in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us. ⁵ We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

⁶ But as for the highly esteemed—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—those leaders added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted to preach the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸ For the One who was at work in Peter's apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in my apostleship to the Gentiles.

⁹ And recognizing the grace that I had been given, James, Cephas, and John—those reputed to be pillars—gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellow-

■ **GAL 2:1 [NOTE]** WHICH TRIP? Many scholars think this is the big meeting in Jerusalem in Acts 15, p.~, where the church decided Gentiles do not have to be circumcised. If Galatians was written before that meeting, as the intro says many think, this is the earlier trip when Paul and Barnabas brought gifts for the hungry, Acts 11:30. Either way, the leaders agreed with Paul's gospel, 2:9.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

ship, so that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They only asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

PAUL CONFRONTS CEPHAS

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, however, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself, for fear of those in the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵ We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile "sinners" ¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

¹⁷ But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, does that make Christ a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I have already torn down, I prove myself to be a lawbreaker.

¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹

■ **GAL 2:11 [NOTE]** PAUL CONFRONTS PETER. Peter was the top apostle, but when he pulled away from Gentile believers out of fear, Paul corrected him to his face. Truth matters more than titles, and even great leaders can be wrong. They did not stay enemies. Peter later called Paul our beloved brother, 2 Peter 3:15. Protestants have used this story to say no church leader is above correction. Catholics answer that Peter slipped in what he did, not in what he taught.

■ **GAL 2:16 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← PS 143:2 p.~

■ **GAL 2:20 [NOTABLE]** Paul says the old Paul died with Jesus on the cross. The life he lives now is Christ living through him, by faith. The Christian life is not trying

do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

You foolish Galatians! Who put a spell on you? You started with the Spirit, so why try to finish with rules? Abraham believed God, and that was counted as righteousness. Christ took the curse for us on the cross. Now there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. You are all one in Christ.

FAITH AND BELIEF // JAMES 2:14-26

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

³ Are you so foolish? After starting in the Spirit, are you now finishing in the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing, if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God lavish His Spirit on you and work miracles among you because you practice the law, or because you hear and believe?

⁶ So also, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and foretold the gospel to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

CHRIST HAS REDEEMED US

¹⁰ All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." ¹¹ Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." ¹² The law, however, is not based

harder to be good. It is letting Jesus live His life in you.

And it is personal: He loved me and gave Himself for me.

■ **GAL 3:1 [FIELD NOTES]** See The Galatian Celts Field Notes page.

■ **GAL 3:6 [QUOTES]** Direct ← GEN 15:6 p.~

■ **GAL 3:8 [FULFILLS]** Through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed and 3 more ← GEN 12:3; GEN 18:18; GEN 26:2-5; PS 72:17 p.~

■ **GAL 3:10 [QUOTES]** Direct ← DT 27:26 p.~

■ **GAL 3:11 [QUOTES]** Direct ← HAB 2:4 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

on faith; on the contrary, *"The man who does these things will live by them."*

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: *"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."* ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE STATUE · THE LINK IS BACKGROUND

THE GALATIAN CELTS

GALATIANS 3:1



The Dying Gaul, a marble statue of a wounded Celtic warrior, Capitoline Museums, Rome. Photo antmoose, CC BY 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

A life size marble statue of a Celtic warrior sitting on his shield, bleeding from a wound in his side. You can tell he is a Celt by his spiky hair, his mustache and the twisted metal ring around his neck, called a torc. The Greeks called these people Galatians.

HOW OLD IT IS

It is a Roman copy in marble, made a little before or after the time of Jesus. The first version was bronze, made about 230 to 220 BC for the king of Pergamum in Turkey. He had beaten the Galatians in battle and showed off statues of them dying. It was dug up in Rome in the early 1600s.

WHO THE GALATIANS WERE

About 278 BC, thousands of Celts crossed into Turkey. They raided cities for years and then settled in the middle of the land around Ankara in three tribes. Rome made their land part of a province in 25 BC and kept the name Galatia.

YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS

Paul writes, You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? 3:1. He is not insulting a race. He is shocked that people who saw Christ crucified so clearly would trade grace for rules. Greek writers did call the Celts brave but hot tempered and quick to change, and some think Paul's readers would have felt that sting.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

In the Capitoline Museums in Rome, Italy.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

The Galatians were a real people famous across the ancient world, and their name stayed on the map in Paul's day.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The statue shows a Celt from 300 years before Paul. It does not tell us whether Paul's readers were Celts in the north or a mix of peoples in the south.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW // ROMANS 7:1-6

¹⁵ Brothers, let me put this in human terms. Even a human covenant, once it is ratified, cannot be canceled or amended. ¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, *"and to seeds,"* meaning many, but *"and to your seed,"* meaning One, who is Christ.

¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law that came 430 years later does not revoke the covenant previously established by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God freely granted it to Abraham through a promise.

■ GAL 3:12 [QUOTES] Direct ← LEV 18:5 p.~

■ GAL 3:13 [DEMONIC] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, becoming a curse for us

■ GAL 3:13 [FULFILLS] Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree ← DT 21:23 p.~

■ GAL 3:13 [FULFILLS] An offering for sin ← IS 53:10b p.~

■ GAL 3:16 [FULFILLS] The promise of land and inheritance given to Abraham's Seed (singular) ← GEN 12:7 p.~

■ GAL 3:16 [FULFILLS] Isaac's seed would bless all nations ← GEN 22:18 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES THE HEART DEMONIC

¹⁹ Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator is unnecessary, however, for only one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the law. ²² But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

²³ Before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So the law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

SONS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Before Jesus, we were like kids with a babysitter. When the time was right, God sent His Son, born of a woman, so we could be adopted. Now we call God Abba, Father. Paul remembers how they welcomed him when he was sick. Then a picture story: Hagar and Sarah, slavery and freedom.

SONS AND HEIRS

¹What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a

slave, although he is the owner of everything. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the date set by his father.

³ So also, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. ⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir through God.

PAUL'S CONCERN FOR THE GALATIANS

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to those weak and worthless principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that my efforts for you may have been in vain. ¹² I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

■ **GAL 3:28 [NOTE]** ALL ONE IN CHRIST. Your race, your job and whether you are a man or a woman do not change how much God values you or your place in His family. A Jewish prayer, written down later, thanks God for not making a man a Gentile, a slave or a woman. Paul tears that wall down. Some believe this verse opens every role in the church to women, pointing to Phoebe and Junia in Romans 16, p.~. Others say Paul is talking about being saved, not about church roles.

■ **GAL 4:4 [FULFILLS]** The Redeemer would be born of a woman (the seed of the woman) and 2 more ← GEN 3:15; GEN 49:10; RUTH 4:9-10 p.~.

■ **GAL 4:6 [HEART]** God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father.

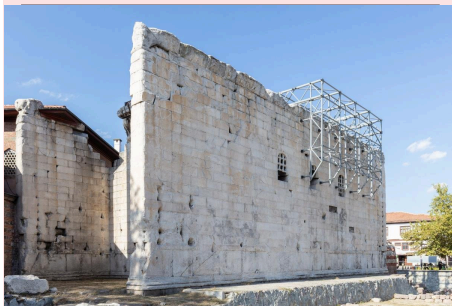
■ **GAL 4:8 [DEMONIC]** Before knowing God you were slaves to things that are not gods

■ **GAL 4:10 [FIELD NOTES]** See The Temple of Augustus Field Notes page.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE TEMPLE · DEBATED FOR 4:10

THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS

GALATIANS 4:8 TO 10



The Temple of Rome and Augustus in Ankara, Turkey. Its walls carry the Deeds of the Divine Augustus. Photo Diego Delso, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

The stone walls of a temple to the goddess Roma and the emperor Augustus in Ankara, the capital of the province of Galatia. On its walls the emperor's life story is carved in Latin inside and Greek outside. It is called the Deeds of the Divine Augustus. This is the best copy left in the world.

HOW OLD IT IS

The temple was built about 25 BC to AD 14. Experts argue over the exact date. The Deeds were carved after Augustus died in AD 14, so they were on the wall when Paul wrote.

SON OF GOD ON THE WALL

Augustus called himself the son of a god, because Rome had declared his adopted father Julius Caesar a god. All over Galatia people kept festival days for the emperor. Pieces of two more copies of the Deeds have been found in Galatia, one at Antioch of Pisidia, Paul's city.

DAYS, MONTHS, SEASONS AND YEARS

Paul says the Galatians were going back to observing special days, months, seasons and years, 4:10. Most think he means Jewish holy days pushed by the new teachers, because the whole letter is about the law. Some scholars add that new believers who quit the emperor's festivals were under pressure, and

keeping Jewish days made them look like a legal religion in Roman eyes.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

In the Ulus area of Ankara, Turkey, right beside the Hacı Bayram Mosque. The temple was later turned into a church.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Emperor worship was everywhere in Galatia. Calling Jesus the true Son God sent, 4:4, was a bold claim there.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

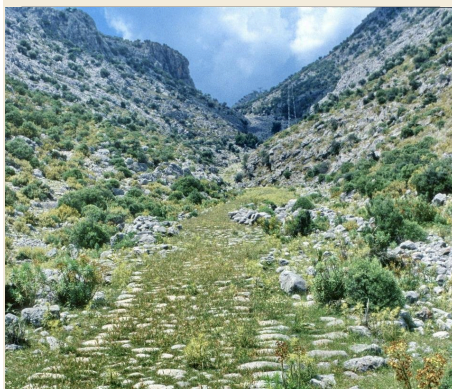
Paul never names the emperor in Galatians. The link to 4:10 is a scholar's idea, not something the verse says.

¹³ You know that it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴ And although my illness was a trial to you, you did not despise or reject me. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself. ¹⁵ What then has become of your blessing? For I can testify that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE ROAD · MEDIUM FOR THIS STRETCH

THE VIA SEBASTE

GALATIANS 4:13 TO 14 · ACTS 13:13 TO 14



Paved Roman road in the Döşeme Pass north of Antalya, Turkey, believed to be part of the Via Sebaste. Photo Volker Höhfeld, CC BY SA 4.0.

■ **GAL 4:13 [FIELD NOTES]** See The Via Sebaste Field Notes page.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

WHAT IT IS

A Roman road paved with stones, climbing through a mountain pass in southern Turkey. Many experts think it was part of the Via Sebaste, the road of Augustus, which tied together the Roman colonies of South Galatia.

HOW OLD IT IS

Milestones along the Via Sebaste say it was built in 6 BC under Augustus. The stones in this photo may have been laid or fixed in later Roman centuries, so their exact date is debated. The route itself was there in Paul's day.

PAUL'S ROAD

On his first trip, Paul landed on the south coast at Perga and went up to Antioch of Pisidia, Acts 13:13 to 14. The easiest way up the mountains was this kind of road. From Antioch it ran on toward Iconium and Lystra, the next stops in Acts 14.

WHY ROMAN ROADS MATTER

Rome built tens of thousands of miles of roads for its armies. Soldiers kept them safe from bandits. Paul used them to carry the gospel, and his letters traveled the same roads. Still, Paul says he faced danger from rivers and robbers, 2 Corinthians 11:26.

THE ILLNESS

Paul says he first preached in Galatia because of an illness, and they did not turn him away even though it was a trial for them, 4:13 to 14. Some think it was an eye problem, 4:15. See the 6:11 note and the 2 Corinthians 12:7 note, p. 11.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Rome had just built a road linking the very cities Acts says Paul visited, in the order he visited them.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No one can say Paul walked on these exact stones.

¹⁷ Those people are zealous for you, but not in a good way. Instead, they want to isolate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ Nevertheless, it is good to be zealous if it serves a noble purpose—at any time, and not only when I am with you.

¹⁹ My children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

HAGAR AND SARAH // GENESIS 21:9–21

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not understand what the law says? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born through the promise.

²⁴ These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written:

*“Rejoice, O barren woman,
who bears no children;
break forth and cry aloud,
you who have never travailed;
because more are the children of the desolate
woman
than of her who has a husband.”*

²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time, however, the son born by the flesh persecuted the son born by the Spirit. It is the same now.

³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? *“Expel the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”* ³¹ There-

■ **GAL 4:22 [FULFILLS]** Sending away the slave woman and her son pictures the old covenant giving way to the new ← GEN 21:10 p. 11

■ **GAL 4:24 [NOTE] TWO COVENANTS, NOT TWO RACES.** Paul says this is an allegory, a picture story. Hagar stands for the law given at Mount Sinai, Sarah for God's promise. It is not about Arabs and Jews. Paul even puts the Jerusalem of his day on Hagar's side and believing Gentiles on Sarah's. The point is how you relate to God: as a slave trying to earn it, or as a free child of the promise. See the Genesis 21:9 note, p. 11.

■ **GAL 4:26 [FULFILLS]** The barren woman would have more children than the married one ← IS 54:1 · MEDIUM p. 11

■ **GAL 4:27 [QUOTES]** Direct ← IS 54:1 p. 11

■ **GAL 4:30 [QUOTES]** Direct ← GEN 21:10 p. 11

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

fore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Christ set you free, so do not go back to slavery. If you add circumcision to Jesus, you lose the whole point. Love your neighbor as yourself. Walk by the Spirit and you will not do what the flesh wants. Paul lists the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace and more.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery.

² Take notice: I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. What matters is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷ You were running so well. Who has obstructed you from obeying the truth? ⁸ Such persuasion does not come from the One who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven works through the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will bear the judgment, whoever he may be.

¹¹ Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those who are agitating you, I wish they would proceed to emasculate themselves!

■ **GAL 5:1 [NOTABLE]** Christ set us free so we would stay free. The yoke of slavery here is trying to earn God's love by keeping religious rules, like the Galatians adding circumcision. Freedom is not permission to sin either, 5:13. It is freedom to love God and serve people because you want to, not because you are scared.

■ **GAL 5:12 [NOTE]** Yes, Paul really said that. The troublemakers wanted to cut the Galatians with circumcision, so Paul says he wishes the knife would slip and they would

¹³ For you, brothers, were called to freedom; but do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is fulfilled in a single decree: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" ¹⁵ But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT // EZEKIEL 36:16-38; ROMANS 8:9-11

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and sorcery; hatred, discord, jealousy, and rage; rivalries, divisions, factions, ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.

cut the whole thing off. It is harsh, and a little funny, but he was angry because they were cutting new believers off from grace. Priests of the goddess Cybele in Galatia really did cut themselves this way, so his readers got the joke.

■ **GAL 5:14 [QUOTES]** Direct ← LEV 19:18 p. 7

■ **GAL 5:20 [DEMONIC]** Sorcery (pharmakeia) listed among works of the flesh

■ **GAL 5:20 [NOTE]** SORCERY. The Greek word is pharmakeia, where we get pharmacy. In Paul's day it meant using potions, poisons and drugs in magic: spells, curses and calling on spirits. That is why most Bibles say sorcery or witchcraft. Some read it as warning against drug use, but the word points to the occult, not to medicine.

■ **GAL 5:22 [NOTABLE]** Nine qualities, but Paul says fruit, not fruits. They grow together like one piece of fruit, not a basket where you pick your favorites. You cannot make fruit by straining. It grows when you stay connected to the vine, John 15:5. Compare the works of the flesh in 5:19 to 21. Works are made. Fruit is grown.

NOTABLE

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Gently help a brother who falls, and carry each other's burdens. You reap what you sow, so do not get tired of doing good. Paul grabs the pen and writes the ending himself in big letters. The troublemakers only want to brag about you. Paul will only brag about the cross.

CARRY ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

¹Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

³If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

⁴Each one should test his own work. Then he will have reason to boast in himself alone, and not in someone else. ⁵For each one should carry his own load. ⁶Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word must share in all good things with his instructor.

⁷Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. ⁸The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

FINAL WARNINGS AND BLESSINGS

¹¹See what large letters I am using to write to you with my own hand!

¹²Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ. ¹³For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

¹⁴But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation.

¹⁶Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

■ **GAL 6:7 [NOTABLE]** A farming law: plant corn, get corn. Plant to please your flesh and you harvest ruin. Plant to please the Spirit and you harvest life forever. Harvest takes time, so do not give up doing good, 6:9. People call this karma, but karma has no grace. God forgives the sinner, and He still lets us learn from what we planted.

■ **GAL 6:11 [NOTE]** LARGE LETTERS. Paul usually told a helper what to write, Romans 16:22, then signed the end himself so no one could fake his letters, 2 Thessalonians 3:17. Why so large? Maybe for emphasis. Maybe poor eyesight. Paul said the Galatians would have torn out their eyes and given them to him, 4:15. Some think that was his thorn in the flesh. That is a guess. See the 2 Corinthians 12:7 note, p.-.