

# **Discussion Questions On Galatians**

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## INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS

The history of the churches of Galatia begins in Acts 13:13-14:27 (map 1) with a city by city description of Paul's first missionary journey. It is a remarkable record of how God worked through Paul in spreading of the gospel.

Galatia formed the central plateau of Asia Minor (see map2). It had very odd shape boundaries which changed from time to time with different governments.

About 232 B.C., three tribes of Gaul's invaded Asia and successfully captured and held the area shown in map 3. About 189 B.C. they were made subjects of Rome and allowed to govern themselves. About 63 B.C. they were ruled by three kings. In 25 B.C., when Amyntas was killed in battle, Augustus made Galatia a Roman province. This was the political situation when Paul visited this area.

Paul and Barnabas visited Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe on their first missionary journey. Luke records they visited the last two cities in Acts 13:14, 51, 14:6-7, leading us to know Paul visited & established churches in southern Galatia. Barnabas is mentioned in 2:1, 9, & 13, which includes the southern region. In Acts 15:36 Paul states "let us go back" and visit the brethren and see how they are doing. Acts 16:6 indicates they passed thru northern Galatia. Lastly they passed thru the region on the third journey Acts 18:23. With this background information before us we look at other things relate to this epistle.

There is a great discussion among scholars about the date of this epistle. The dates range from 51 A.D. to 58 A. D., probably between 53-57, though no one is sure.

Even though the date is unsure the design of the epistle is very plain.

- (1) The Galatians had completely given themselves to Paul's gospel, receiving his instructions and commands while he was with them Gal. 4:14-1.
- (2) They had been perverted from the doctrine soon after he left. Gal. 1:6.
- (3) This had been done by Judaizing teachers.
- (4) They claimed to have directly from the apostles in Jerusalem.
- (5) Discrediting Paul as inferior to the other apostles.
- (6) Binding the law of Moses, especially circumcision.
- (7) Tried to get Paul to change his views on the subject.
- (8) They augured that God's promised were made to Abraham who was circumcised - answer - all must be circumcised.
- (9) Consequences - dissension, strife, always follow false doctrine

The main design of this epistle is to answer the above questions and firmly establishing God's authority on these matters as we spend about 16 lessons from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Lesson 1

1. How was Paul made an apostle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Paul emphasis that his gospel can directly from God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What problem caused Paul to write this letter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Compare the way this letter begins with Paul's other letters. What are some differences? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did Christ die for us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did HE rescue us and from what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why was Paul astonished or amazed at the Galatians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What had happened to the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who or what were they NOT to listen to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Was Paul trying to please God or men? What about us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2

1. Define:

Certify \_\_\_\_\_  
Persecuted \_\_\_\_\_  
Zealous \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the manner in which Paul learned the gospel message. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Paul's gospel was a certified gospel. What does that mean to us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. When did God first plan to use Paul to carry the gospel to the Gentiles? Consider  
Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Acts 9:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find Arabia and Damascus on a map. How far is it from Jerusalem to Damascus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Were the other apostles involved in teaching Paul? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain where he learned the gospel. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. With whom did Paul meet when he went to Jerusalem? What was their  
relationship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How long did Paul stay in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Who was Paul's witness to the message he preached? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why were Judean Christians glorifying God (vs. 24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 3

1. When did Paul go to Jerusalem? Who told him to go? Who went with him?

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2. What two reasons did Paul give for his trip? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why did Paul seek a private meeting those of “reputation”? Who were they?

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4. What is the *liberty* Paul refers to in vs. 4? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What would make one a “false” brother? Who does Paul describe here? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Why was Paul so adamant about not compromising? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How long was Paul willing to endure the false brethren? What was the danger?

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8. What was the “gospel of circumcision”? Are there *two* gospels? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What is the right hand of fellowship? Is it used to day? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. How should we remember the poor? \_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 4

1. Who first delivered the gospel to the Gentiles? To whom was it first preached?

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2. What had Peter done to cause Paul to withstand him to the face?

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3. What does hypocrisy mean? Give an example.

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4. Were others affected by Peter's action? If so, who?

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5. Some people think Paul should have gone to Peter privately. Paul publicly withstood Peter. Can you explain why?

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6. What is "the faith of Christ"? Are we justified by it?

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7. How was Paul "crucified with Christ"? How are we?

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8. Explain the purpose of the Law of Moses?

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9. What happens when one dies under the law?

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10. How do we overcome sin?

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Bonus: Can we frustrate the grace of God?

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Lesson 5

1. What made the Galatians look foolish? Can the same thing happen to us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How were the Galatians bewitched? Can the same thing happen to us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the central message of Paul's gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How was Christ "evidently set forth, crucified among" the Galatians? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Who had worked miracles among them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does it mean: "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Who are the true children of Abraham today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. As a Christian, what should we have in common with Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How was Christ "made a curse for us"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What are the blessings of Abraham & when do we receive them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Lesson 6

1. What happened to those under Moses' law who lived imperfectly? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did any prove to be righteous under the law? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The law and faith are opposites. What makes the law a curse & faith a blessing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the 3 great promises made to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)? List the promises & where they were fulfilled.
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
5. How does Paul show that the law did not cancel the promises to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a covenant? How do men ratify a covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does Acts 7:2-4 fit into this discussion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Read Heb. 6:13-18. How does this passage help us understand God's promises?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the 430 years in vs. 17 about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why is Paul going back in history to make this point? What effect does it have on us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 7

1. What is meant by the law was added because of transgressions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Does vs. 19 tell us when the law would end? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Define:

Mediator \_\_\_\_\_

Justify \_\_\_\_\_

Righteousness \_\_\_\_\_

Redeem \_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain how those in vs. 23 were imprisoned. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How did they get out of jail? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who is the "we" in vs.24? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the meaning of the term schoolmaster? What was the purpose here?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Compare Heb. 10:1 with vs. 24. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How did the Galatians become the sons of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How are we sons of Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 8

1. How is it possible that an heir could be no better than a slave? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is being referred to in vs. 2? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is being referred to as elements of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain the term "fullness of time". What does it mean to us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the adoption process in this chapter? Consider Rom. 8:15-17. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How can one "do service unto them which by nature are no gods"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think the Galatians were aware of their condition before God? How about us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the meaning of vs. 10? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What was Paul's fear in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 9

1. What was Paul's bodily injury (vs. 13)? Did it prevent him from preaching to them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was his condition a trial for them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How had they received him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Paul mean in vs. 15 when he asks what happened to them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Discuss the meaning of the question in vs. 16. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who is the "they" of vs.17? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What they eagerly seeking of the Galatians? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the labor Paul referring to in vs. 19? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Explain the phrase "Christ forming in you". \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why was Paul perplexed with them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 10

1. Explain vs. 21. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where is the Bible record that Paul refers to in these passages? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was the bondwoman's son? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was the free woman's son? \_\_\_\_\_  
List what each represents.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain vs. 27. Where was it quoted? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Make a comparison of these passages and Heb. 12:18-29. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the comparison made in vs. 29? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did Paul dwell on this point? What is the importance? Consider: Romans 7:1-4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 11

1. Contrast freedom and slavery of vs. 1? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Other verses that discuss freedom: John 8:\_\_\_; Acts 15:\_\_\_; Romans 6:\_\_\_;  
Galatians 2\_\_\_; Galatians 4:\_\_\_; 1 Peter 2:\_\_\_
3. What are the problems of practicing circumcision as a religious event? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Paul mean when he said "ye are fallen from grace"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Vs. 5 says, "Ye were running well". What happened? What about us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is leaven? What does it represent in scripture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe the influence the Judaizers were having on the Galatians. Look at  
Matthew 7:16. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Explain vs. 13? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How can the whole be fulfilled in loving your neighbor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Apply vs. 15 to us today. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 12

1. What is the meaning of the statement “walk by the Spirit”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why are the flesh and spirit “contrary to one another”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Define:

Immorality \_\_\_\_\_

Impurity \_\_\_\_\_

Sensuality \_\_\_\_\_

Idolatry \_\_\_\_\_

Sorcery \_\_\_\_\_

Enmities \_\_\_\_\_

Strife \_\_\_\_\_

Jealousy \_\_\_\_\_

Outburst of anger \_\_\_\_\_

Disputes \_\_\_\_\_

Dissensions \_\_\_\_\_

Factions \_\_\_\_\_

Envying \_\_\_\_\_

Drunkenness \_\_\_\_\_

Carousing \_\_\_\_\_

Such like \_\_\_\_\_

4. Identify the fruits of the spirit. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do we belong to Christ? How do we crucify the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 13

1. Give an example of how a Christian can be “overtaken or caught in any trespass”?

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2. Who is to restore the fallen one? Look at Mt. 7:1-6. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why is meekness so important in this process? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Explain the paradox in vs. 2. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How can we deceive ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How can we “prove” our own work? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Compare vs. 2 with vs. 5. Which is it? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What is the analogy of sowing/reaping? Is there any connection to Mt. 13 (the parable of the sower)? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. List some opportunities mentioned in vs.10. \_\_\_\_\_

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Lesson 14

1. Why do you think Paul mentions the large letters that are used? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did some make a “good or fair” showing? What was their purpose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Explain vs. 12. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the cross represent to Christians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Paul said “those of the circumcision don’t even keep the law themselves”. What do they keep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Paul boast in? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How had Paul crucified the world? Can we do the same? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the “rule” of vs. 16? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the marks did Paul bear in his body? Do we have any marks? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_