

# Galatians

- **Author and Date**
  - Written by Paul (1:1; 6:11)
  - Probably written in the early to mid 50's, since it appears that he may be looking back in time on the Council of Jerusalem (2:1-10).
- **Destination**
  - Central territory of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). Made a Province of the Roman Empire in 25 BC.
    - It is believed that this region was inhabited by immigrants from Gaul in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC (from modern day Germany/France).
  - Paul visited there on all three of his missionary journey's.
  - Apparently Paul recuperated from some ailment or illness there (4:14).
- **Structure**
  - Opening Address 1:1-9
  - Paul's Apostolic Authority reestablished 1:10-2:21
  - Paul's Gospel 3 – 4
  - Exhortation on Christian Life and Liberty 5 – 6:10
  - Conclusion 6:11-18
- **Purpose**
  - Vigorous attempt to refute the claim of the Judaizers that circumcision and adherence to Mosaic Law, with it's dietary and liturgical obligations was necessary.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
  - Polemical, forceful, and combative (1:6-9; 3:1; 5:12), but also extremely affectionate (4:19).
  - Infallibility VS Impeccability (Confrontation with Peter in Antioch 2:1-16).
  - Law of Charity
  - Freedom VS Slavery
  - Radical identification with Christ (2:20; 4:6; 6:17)