

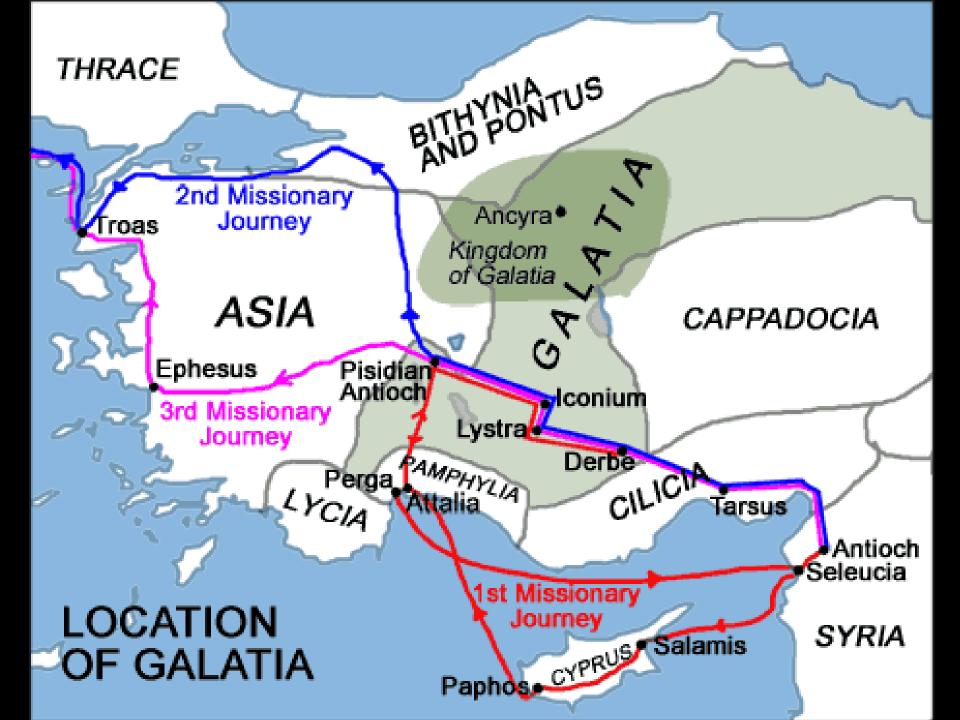
Galatians

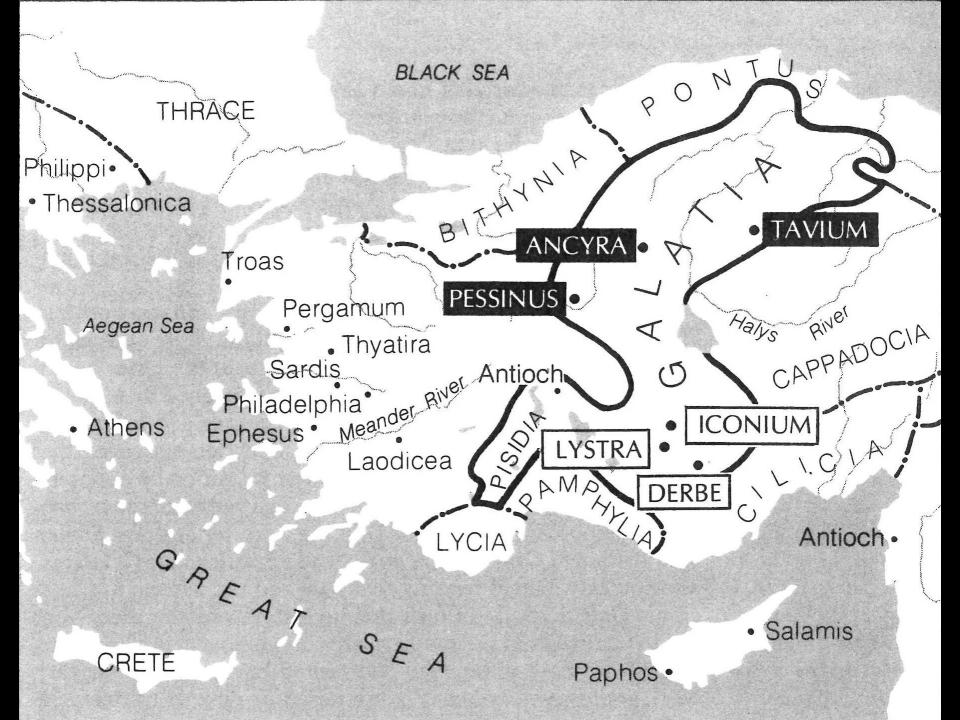
"The book of Galatians is one of the shorter epistles of Paul. Few books, however, have had a more profound influence on the history of mankind than has this small tract, for such it could be called. Christianity might have been just one more Jewish sect, and the thought of the Western world might have been entirely pagan had it never been written. Galatians embodies the germinal teaching on Christian freedom which separated Christianity from Judaism, and which launched it upward on a career of missionary conquest."

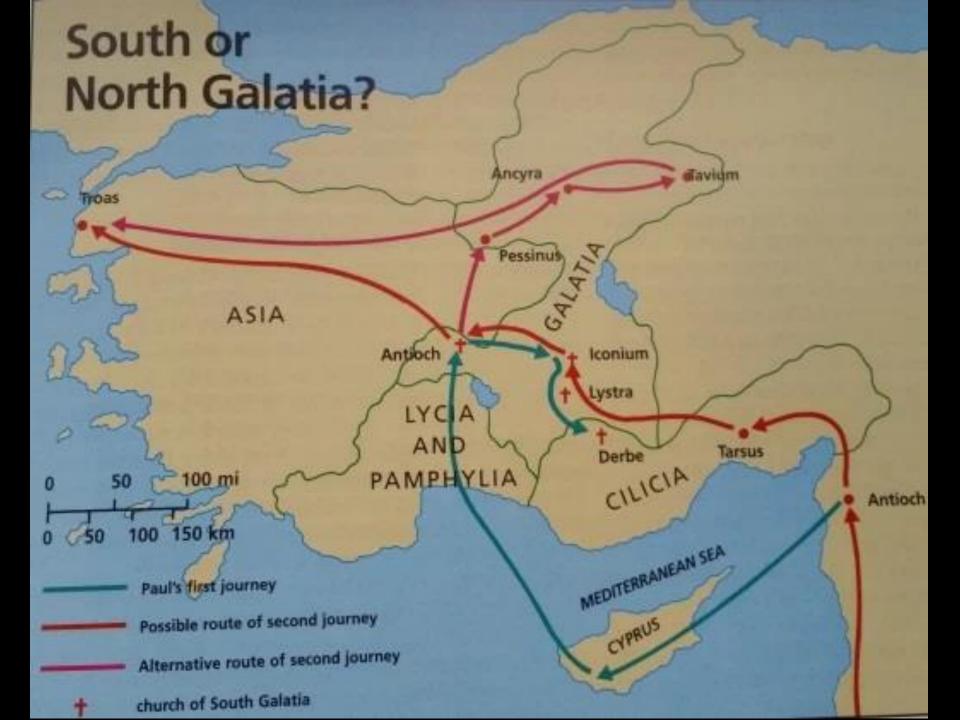
Merrill C. Tenney

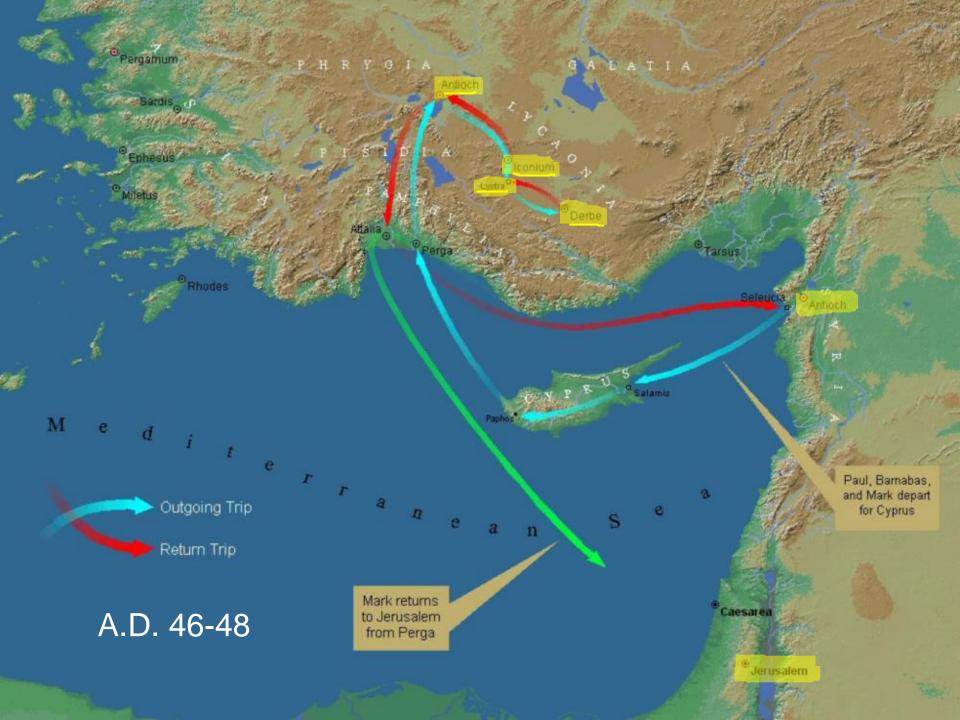
"It was the cornerstone of the Protestant Reformation, because its teaching of salvation by grace alone became the dominant theme of the preaching of the Reformers. Luther's 'Commentary on Galatians' was the reasoned manifesto of the revolt against the Roman ritual & hierarchy, which more than any other single document, revived the knowledge of Biblical truth in the minds of the people. It has been called the 'Magna Carta of spiritual emancipation,' for on its principles is formed the whole faith of a free church."

Merrill C. Tenney









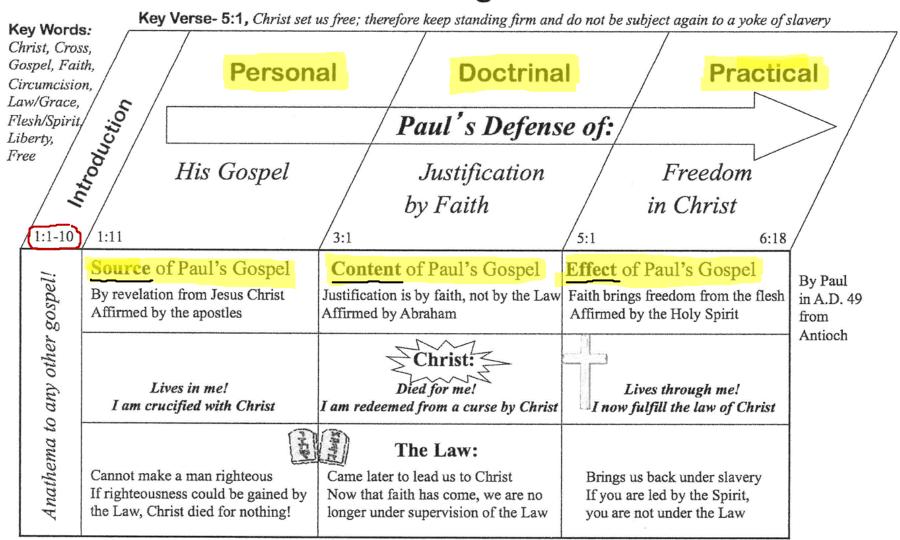


TIME LINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

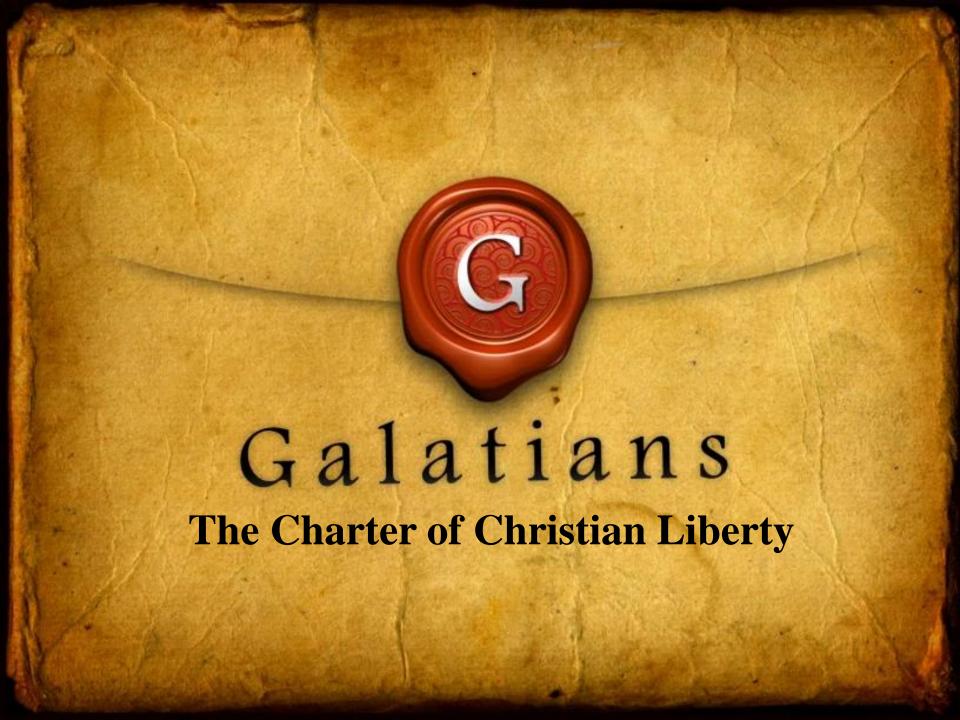
Historical Books

Gospel-Acts					post-Acts			
A.D. 0	A.D. 30	A.D. 48	A.D. 50	A.D. 53	A.D. 60	A.D. 62	A.D. 67	A.D. 95
Paulir	Pauline Epistles 1 1							
		Galatians	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians	1 Timothy Titus	2 Timothy	
General Epistles						↑	^	↑
		James				1 Peter 2 Peter	Hebrews Jude	1 John 2 John 3 John Revelation

GALATIANS: Standing Firm for Freedom in Christ



The Emancipation Proclamation of Christianity



GALATIANS 2:14

"When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew (Ιουδαΐος), yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew (Touodikac). How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs (ἴουδαϊζω)?"

ACTS 15:1-2

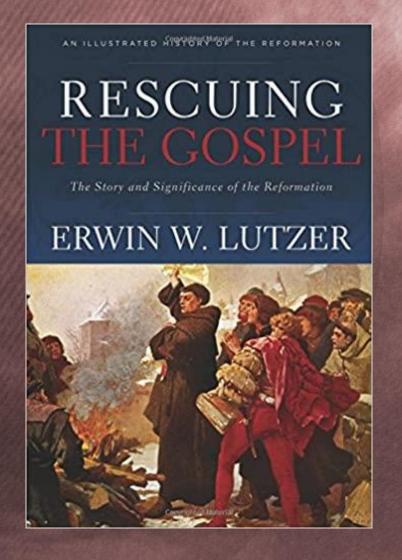
Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question."



Galatians: The Charter of Christian Liberty

Key Verse: Galatians 5:1

"Every generation, including ours, has to fight for the purity of the Gospel. It is our nature to reject the gospel's verdict on us and resist the profound simplicity of its transforming message of grace. The gospel must always be defended, and sometimes it must be rescued."



"The Epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine."

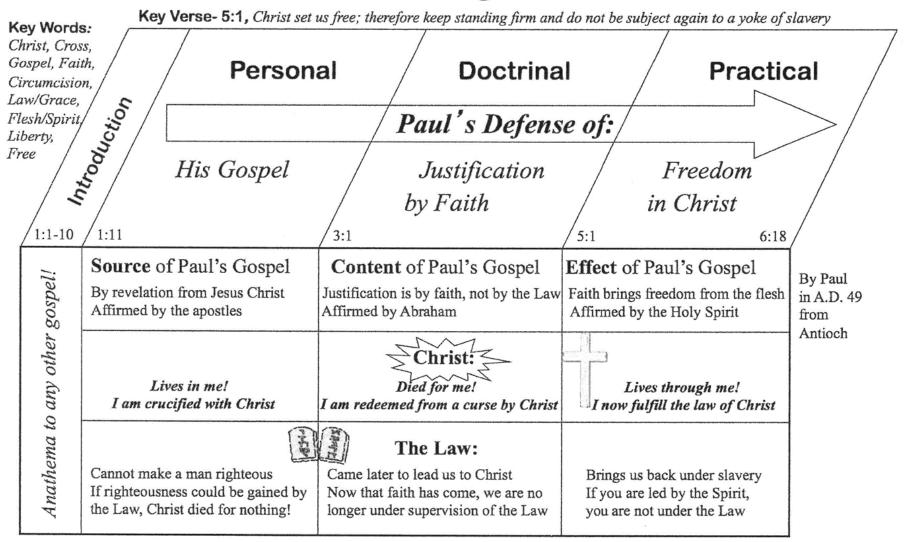
MARTIN LUTHER



The Judaizers in Galatia both discredited Paul and proclaimed a false gospel. It was necessary that Paul vindicate his apostleship and message, a task he undertook in the first two chapters. In this autobiographical section Paul demonstrated convincingly that his apostleship and his message came by revelation from the risen Christ. In chapters 3 and 4 Paul contended for the true doctrine of grace, that is, for justification by faith alone. Finally, to show that Christian liberty does not mean license the apostle, in chapters 5 and 6, taught that a Christian should live by the power of the Holy Spirit and that when he does he manifests in his life not the works of the flesh but the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians was written to remedy a desperate situation, to call early Christians back from the Mosaic Law to grace, from legalism to faith. It is an emphatic statement of salvation by faith apart from works and is as relevant today as when it was originally penned.

Dr. Donald K. Campbell

GALATIANS: Standing Firm for Freedom in Christ



The Emancipation Proclamation of Christianity



Paul wrote the book of Galatians to churches that had been infiltrated by legalists. The legalists taught that to be saved, Gentiles must not only believe on Christ but also keep the law of Moses. Paul emphasized the good news that Christ died to deliver us from our sins and to provide salvation as a gift. Paul urged the Galatians churches to reject any "gospel" that denied the doctrine of salvation by grace.

Galatians: Faith & Freedom (RBP)

Christianity can survive without the Gospel. Let me clarify. There is a form of Christianity that developed in medieval times that has survived to this day without the gospel. It is, of course, a powerless Christianity that cannot give people the assurance of salvation, nor does it lead to lives of holiness — but it is still called Christianity. Yes, whether Catholic or Protestant, every generation, including ours, has to fight for the purity of the gospel. It's our nature to reject the gospel's verdict on us and resist the profound simplicity of its transforming message of grace. The gospel must always be defended, and sometimes it must be rescued.

Erwin W. Lutzer

