

GALATIANS BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE BOOK

The Galatian Letter Is An Indignant Protest Against And A Refutation Of The Judaizing Teachers Troubling Early Christians.

A. Part #1 – Ch.1,2: Arguments Sustaining Paul’s Gospel And Apostolic Office

1. In the first two chapters he shows that:
 - a. His apostleship was not derived from the other apostles, but from Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Stated emphatically in his greeting, 1:1-5.
 - (2) Assumed in his rebuke and anathema, 1:6-10.
 - (3) Proved by his arguments, 1:11-2:21.
 - b. The gospel that he taught was not revealed to him by other apostles, but by the Lord.
 - c. He had never met them as an inferior, but on an equal footing.
 - d. It was agreed between them that Peter, James and John would devote their labors to the circumcision, while Paul and Barnabas would go to the uncircumcision.
 - e. On one occasion it was needful for him to rebuke and correct Peter on the very question of the proper attitude toward Gentile Christians.

B. Part #2 – Ch.3,4: Justification Is By Faith In Christ, Not By The Works Of The Law As Proved By Scripture.

1. In the third and fourth chapter Paul contrasts the free gospel salvation by a living faith in Christ with the bondage of the law as taught by the Judaizing teachers who would virtually place Moses in the stead of Christ.

C. Part #3 – Ch.5,6: Exhortations To Steadfastness And Faithfulness To Duty Growing Out Of The Gospel.

1. The fifth and sixth chapters are devoted mainly to practical duties which grow out of the gospel.

The main purpose of the epistle is to establish the fact that Christianity was and/or is a religion independent of Judaism, and that Paul was an apostle independent of the twelve.

Paul discusses the relations of and the differences between the law and the gospel in this epistle.