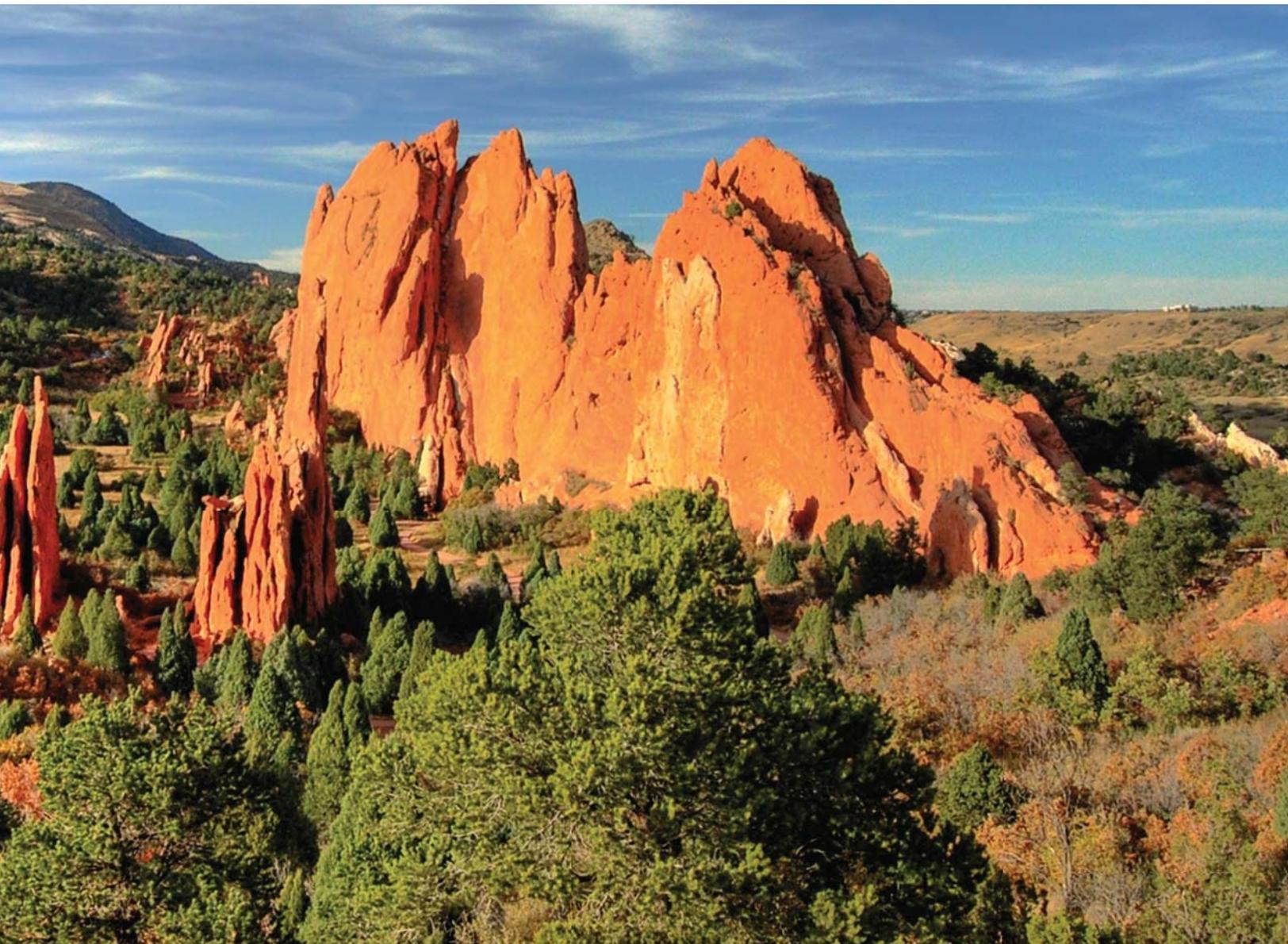


8 BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

REVISED CROSS-CULTURAL EDITION

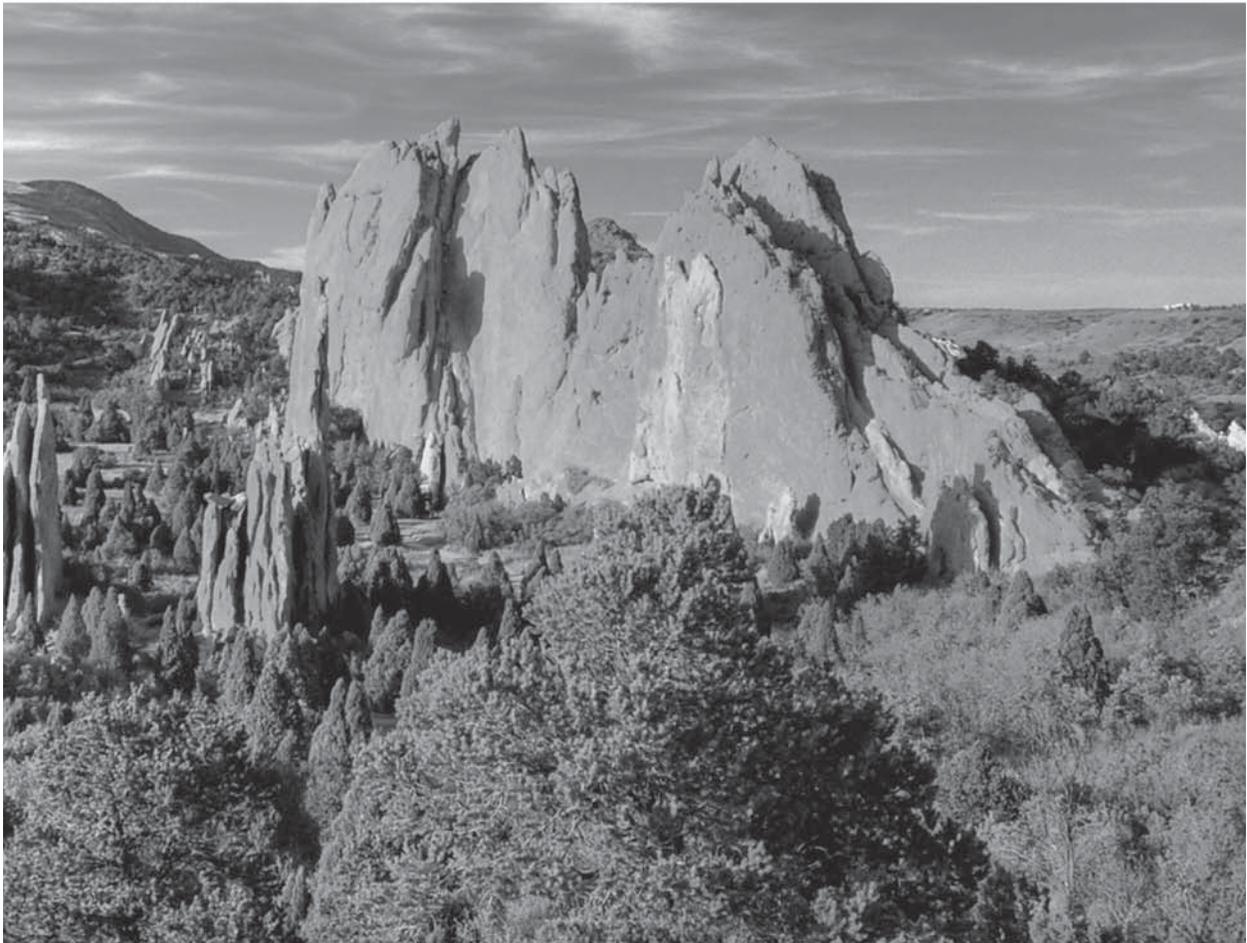


TEACHING NEW BELIEVERS:
Galatians and Colossians

Trevor McIlwain

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REVISED CROSS-CULTURAL EDITION



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GALATIANS and COLOSSIANS

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First Printing 2015

Building On Firm Foundations: Volume 8: Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians

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What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God’s progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start “*in the beginning.*” Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God’s Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, “The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God’s way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures.”

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline, and later, detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

About This Curriculum

Building on Firm Foundations – Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians is a set of Bible lessons by Trevor McIlwain. This book is Volume 8 in the continuing *Building on Firm Foundations* series.

The focus of Volume 7, the last book taught in this series, was future events. It is now important for the believers' continuing spiritual growth that we refocus their attention on the doctrines of justification by faith alone in the Gospel, and the work and power of the Holy Spirit so these doctrines will once again become preeminent in their minds and hearts. These important foundational truths that are so vitally relevant to the daily lives of all believers will be reemphasized through the teaching of Galatians. Following this, we will refocus the believers' attention on the deity of Christ and God's full provision for believers in Him from the book of Colossians.

These lessons were written to guide missionaries step-by-step as they prepare Bible lessons in tribal languages. They were designed for teaching in a cross-cultural setting, although they can be adapted and used in any teaching situation.

Firm Foundations Materials Available

***Firm Foundations* by Trevor McIlwain [Revised Edition]** (Teacher Guides and Study Guides available)

- Books 1-5: *Creation to Christ*
- Book 6: *Secure in Christ*
- Book 7: *Growing in Christ – Acts*
- Book 8: *Growing in Christ – Romans*
- Book 9: *Growing in Christ – Ephesians*

***Building on Firm Foundations* [Revised Cross-cultural Edition]** by Trevor McIlwain

- Volume 1: *Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers*
- Volume 2: *Evangelism: Genesis to the Ascension*
- Volume 3: *Teaching New Believers: Genesis to the Ascension*
- Volume 4: *Teaching New Believers: Acts*
- Volume 5: *Teaching New Believers: Romans and Ephesians*
- Volume 6: *Teaching New Believers: 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy and Titus*
- Volume 7: *Teaching New Believers: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Revelation*
- Volume 8: *Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians*
- Volume 9: *Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy*
- Volume 10: *Teaching New Believers: Hebrews and James*
- Volume 11: *Teaching New Believers: 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude*
- Volume 12: *Teaching Maturing Believers: Genesis through the Epistles*

Note that the latter BOFF volumes are in the process of revision or development. Check the NTM website for availability.

Information about the above publications, along with information about translated materials, and other resources, can be found at:

Canada: ntmbooks.ca or email bookstore@canada.ntm.org or 519.369.2622

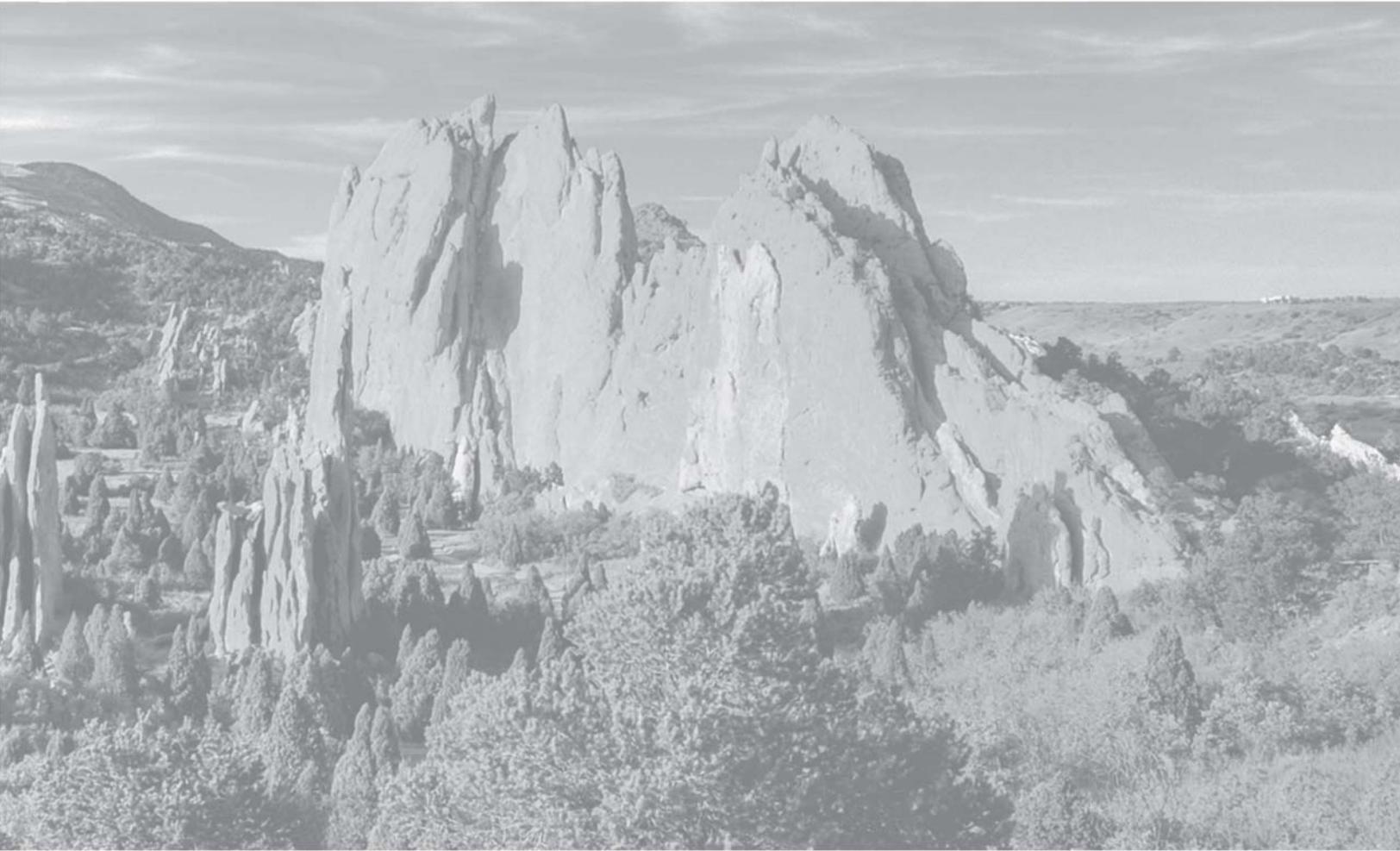
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Part 1



The Remainder of Phase 4 of the
Chronological Teaching Program

The Remainder of Phase 4 of the Chronological Teaching Program

Phase 4 is the stage of the Chronological Teaching Program during which we teach the basic content of the Epistles – Romans to Revelation.

We initially taught selected Epistles, in order to establish key truths that address specific spiritual needs of new believers.

If you have followed the chronological teaching program as laid out in *Building on Firm Foundations*, you will have taught the Epistles outlined in the chart below. With the completion of Revelation, you will have taught the church the major doctrinal truths of the New Testament.

Overview of the first 8 books in Phase 4	
The truth which believers need to understand	Books which focus on this truth
1. The believer's position of victory in Christ	Romans Ephesians
2. The function of each member in the local church	1 Corinthians
3. The ministry of elders and deacons in the local church	1 Timothy Titus
4. God's plan and purposes for future events	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians Revelation

The Remaining Books of the New Testament

As the remaining books of the New Testament are taught, the church will be going back over the basic foundational truths you have already presented. The next six Epistles will reiterate the doctrines which you have already taught from Romans, Ephesians, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Revelation.

I recommend you teach these next six Epistles in the order listed below.

Correspondence of the next six Epistles with those already taught		
Main doctrinal emphasis of the book	Initial book taught covering this emphasis	Follow-up book with similar emphasis
Justification by faith apart from Law Victory over sin through deliverance from the Law and through oneness with Christ	Romans	Galatians
Complete supply of all the believer’s needs in Christ.	Ephesians	Colossians
The importance of unity in the church	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians Philippians
The responsibility of pastors to tenderly and wisely lead the flock.	1 Timothy Titus	Philemon 2 Timothy

After teaching the Epistles written by Paul, the remaining books to be taught are Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude. The order in which you teach these books will depend on the needs of the church that you are teaching.

Overview of the last 8 books in Phase 4	
The Book to Be Taught	The Main Focus of Each Book
Hebrews	Christ is superior to all. Christ is the Great High Priest, replacing the Old Testament priesthood and sacrificial system.
James	Practical Christian living which involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibiting faith, patience and endurance in trials. • Being impartial, compassionate, loving, self-controlled and sincere.
1 Peter	Encouragement for Christians who are suffering or being persecuted to follow the example of Christ who suffered on their behalf.
2 Peter	The dependability of God's Word amidst increasing apostasy and the certainty of Christ's return to judge the ungodly.
1 John	The life and love of God characterizes His children.
2 John	The importance of loving God's children and protecting the assembly of believers from false teachers.
3 John	The church's responsibility to welcome, encourage and support faithful teachers of God's Word.
Jude	The importance of upholding the truth and refusing to entertain those who deny the teachings of God's Word.

Part 2



Lessons from Galatians

Lesson

1

Paul defended his apostleship and the Gospel.

Scripture: Galatians 1:1-12

Additional Scripture: Acts 13:1-4, 14, 50-52
Acts 14:1-7, 21-23
Acts 20:17-21
1 Corinthians 12:12-13
Ephesians 2:1-9

Lesson Outline

1. Paul wrote the book of Galatians. (Acts 13:1-4, 14, 50-52; 14:1-7, 21-23)
2. Paul greeted the churches in Galatia. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 1:1-5; Ephesians 2:1-9)
3. Paul emphasized that there is only one true Gospel. (Galatians 1:6-7)
4. Paul gave a strong warning to those who were preaching a false gospel. (Galatians 1:8-9)
5. Paul was not a man pleaser but a faithful servant of Christ. (Acts 20:17-21; Galatians 1:8-10)
6. The Gospel was taught directly to Paul by the Lord Jesus. (Galatians 1:11-12)

 **Read Galatians 1:1-12.**

Lesson Outline Developed

1. Paul wrote the book of Galatians.

- **We are beginning to study the book of Galatians.**

Paul wrote this letter to the churches in the province of Galatia.

- **When we studied the book of Acts, we learned that Paul and Barnabas traveled to this area.**

Paul initially visited the province of Galatia on his first missionary journey.



Teacher: On the display map that you used when you taught Acts, trace Paul's first missionary journey as you teach the following section.

When Paul and Barnabas were sent out as missionaries from the church at Antioch in Syria, they first sailed to the island of Cyprus.

Read Acts 13:1-4.

After preaching the Gospel in Cyprus, they sailed across to the mainland, landing at Perga. They then traveled inland, crossing over the mountains into the southern part of the province of Galatia and arriving at Antioch in Pisidia.

Read Acts 13:14.

Some Jews who lived in Antioch became believers, as did some Gentiles. However, the Jews who rejected the Gospel stirred up the leaders of the city to force Paul and Barnabas to leave.

Read Acts 13:50-14:7.

During this first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas preached the Gospel in four cities in the province of Galatia. These cities were Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

On their way back to Antioch in Syria, they revisited these cities to give further teaching to the new believers and to appoint elders in the new churches.

Read Acts 14:21-23.

The churches in these four cities were probably the ones to whom Paul wrote this letter.

- **We need to understand the circumstances behind Paul writing this letter to the churches in Galatia.**

Paul had heard that Jewish teachers who claimed to be Christians had come to Galatia. These men were teaching the believers a different message than Paul had taught.