

Bible Study Guide for Galatians 1

Day 1 – Overview

The book of **Galatians** has been called the Magna Carta of Evangelical Christianity. In it, Paul fought and won the case for Christian freedom from the legalistic restrictions of the Mosaic law and a salvation of faith and works. Had Paul not been successful in his battle, Christianity might have become nothing more than another Jewish sect – dependent on circumcision and the keeping of the law and not on grace. As the apostle to the Gentiles, it was necessary for Paul to defend both himself and his message against the Judaizers, those Jews who had accepted Christianity but believed that God’s promises were for Jews alone and that no Gentile could become a Christian unless he first became a practicing Jew.

1. Skim/read all of **Galatians** with the above information in mind, using any translation you wish. Make note of important truths and/or favorite passages as you read.
2. If you have maps in the back of your Bible, locate Galatia on a map of Paul’s journeys. Notice the names of cities Paul visited within the area of Galatia.

Day 2 – Galatians 1:1-5b

1. To better understand the churches of Galatia to whom this letter was addressed let us look at the written accounts of Paul’s missionary journeys into the area of Galatia. For information on Paul’s first missionary journey, read the account given in **Acts 14:1-23**.
 - a. What did Paul do in Lystra and what was the reaction of the crowds? **Acts 14:8-13**
 - b. What was the response of Paul and Barnabas? **Vvs. 14-18**
 - c. In **Acts 14:1-7** with **19-23**, who oppressed Paul and Barnabas? Did their opposition deter Paul from his mission? Explain.
2. **Acts 16:1-5** gives the story of Paul and Timothy’s first meeting. How did Paul address Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:2**?