

# GALATIANS – In Christ Alone

June 13, 2020 / “An Introduction to the Letter” / Part 1 of 12

Introduce yourself to those around you and share about one of the best or most meaningful hand-written notes you ever received, and what made it that way. And/or, share the last time you remember writing a letter to someone; who was it, when was it?

## Recalibrate

1. Read together Galatians 1: 1-10, and share your thoughts, insights, or impressions you get as you read through the passage.
2. Many of Paul’s letters are sent to specific churches. Who is this letter written to and why may the difference be significant?
3. In Paul’s initial greeting, he uses both a Jewish greeting (Peace/shalom) and a Greek greeting (Grace). Why use both?
4. According to v. 6-7, why is Paul writing? Why do you think the matter is so urgent and important to him?
5. Read together Galatians 1: 11-24, and share your thoughts, insights, or impressions you get as you read through the passage.
6. Why do you think it was important for Paul to establish his credentials in writing?
7. How hard do you think it would have been for some who knew of Paul’s former reputation of a persecutor, to now believe that he was on the side of Jesus?
8. According to v 15-16, what three things did God’s conversion or rescue of Paul do for him?

## Relevant

- Paul was battling against the idea that we are saved by our works, the things we do. Do we still battle this today? How does it manifest itself?
- How do you and I protect ourselves from being tricked by distorted views of the gospel?
- Paul was so clear about his calling in his life. How do you and I go about getting the same kind of clarity for our call?

## Reach

In light of this week’s study, over the next week I covenant to \_\_\_\_ (suggestion: spend time considering if you truly believe that it is Jesus and Jesus alone who saves, His work, His sacrifice, and not our own. If not, ask Him to help you believe in the real gospel, the gospel that He died for. If so, celebrate and rejoice that you know you are saved and consider who you know who could benefit from hearing your story this week).

## Remember

*“For am I now seeking the approval of man or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1: 10, ESV)*

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## GALATIANS BIBLE STUDY

The purpose of this sermon series is to help us learn to see that Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the reason for our lives, our salvation, the purpose of our worship, and our all in all. In Jesus we have freedom, and in Jesus and His work, we are set free. In Christ alone. This letter is one of Paul’s first letters ever written, and because of this it may very well have been one of the first Christian documents ever circulated. Paul and Barnabas had traveled through the region of Galatia, planting churches and telling of the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul was reaching beyond the walls of the Jews, to the Gentiles, and letting them know that through Jesus they are more than welcome to the table of fellowship. He was telling them that Jesus had fulfilled the requirements of the law, and sets us free to follow Him not to be saved, but because we are saved. However, the Jewish Christians were struggling, because for 1,000’s of years they had been the called-out ones, the chosen ones, the children of God. If the requirements of the law no longer set them apart and make them special, then what does. So, the Jewish Christians started to lay an unnecessary and heavy burden on the Gentile Christians (i.e. making them get circumcised and such), in order to allow them to fellowship together. Paul said this is not the gospel, and so he writes this letter to clear things up.

## Tips for Teaching to College Students & Young Adults

Depending on your group size, it may be helpful for you to break into smaller groups to do some of the discussion for Recalibrate, and then bring it back together for Relevant. It’s also important to note that this age group wants to know how this all fits in, applies, to their daily walk (in other words - what difference does it make). They also appreciate a teacher’s humility and vulnerability, sharing a personal story and/or being willing to say the three magic words, “I don’t know” to an asked question (but be willing to look for an answer and get back to them at a later time).