

**BOOK OF GALATIANS**  
**HARMONY IN THE GOSPEL**  
**GALATIANS 2:1-10; ACTS 15:1-35**

**Introduction**

The Galatian Churches were made up of a Gentile Believers in southern Galatia—modern day Turkey (including the towns of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe mentioned in the Book of Acts). The Churches in these towns were founded on Paul’s first missionary journey. **Paul and his team had preached the glorious Gospel of Grace that is found in Christ Jesus alone!** Many Gentiles had repented of their sin and believed the Gospel and were gloriously saved and these believers were organized into local Churches.

But now these Gentile Believers were being troubled by **a group of extremist Jews known as Judaizers. The Judaizers taught that Gentile believers had to submit to Jewish laws and traditions in addition to believing in Christ, counteracting what Paul and his team had preached,** and it was causing great confusion among these believers!

**These Judaizers were saying that Paul was leaving something out of the Gospel he was preaching! They accused him of diluting the Gospel to make it more appealing to the Gentiles!** But that is not the case! **Paul was preaching exactly the Gospel he was saved by which was the one he had been given by Christ!** The real problem was that these Judaizers had trouble with their own **dual identity**—Their Jewishness constrained them to be **strict followers of the law** while faith in Christ invited them to **celebrate a holy liberty**. They also struggled with the idea of Gentiles being a part of the Kingdom of Heaven. So they reasoned that surely the Gentiles must also submit to the law—especially with regard to such things as circumcision—before they could be saved!

So, the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Galatian Believers to help them understand that **what he was preaching was the true and complete Gospel!** He wanted them to know that **anyone adding anything to or taking anything away from the Gospel he preached was preaching a perverted Gospel which was, in reality, NOT a Gospel!** A Gospel based upon the being required to keep the Law or doing good works in addition to believing on Christ **IS NOT GOOD NEWS!**

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The Judaizers’ tactic had been to follow Paul to those Galatian Churches and tell them they had to be circumcised and follow all the Jewish laws and customs in order to be saved.

The Judaizers also attacked the Apostle Paul personally—by attacking his credibility!

**1) They attacked Paul’s Testimony!**  
They said that he was a traitor to the Jewish faith!

But, we saw in Paul’s testimony how that he had a head on collision with the risen Lord on the Damascus Road! We’ve seen the complete turnaround that happened in his life!

Paul was one of the most dedicated Jews there was prior to this time! But Christ literally transformed his life that day!

At the point of writing this book, Paul has been saved for around 15 years! The change in his life was unmistakable!

If what he said happened had not happened, why was there this sudden change in Paul’s life?

**2) They attacked Paul’s Apostleship!**  
Paul was called to be an Apostle by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself on the Damascus Road! The Judaizers had dismissed this as a story made up by Paul saying that he called himself! But, Paul sticks by and defends his calling in this book!

**3) They attacked Paul’s Gospel! (1:11-12)**  
The Judaizers tried to convince these Galatian Believers that they had been duped by Paul—That they hadn’t been given the whole Gospel!

They accused Paul of preaching a different Gospel than the other Apostles in Jerusalem! But Paul had received the message that he preached from Christ Himself!

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And that is what we see the Apostle Paul defending here in *Galatians 2* (Actually from *Galatians 1:11 through 2:10*)

**Read the Scripture!**

**I. HERE WE SEE THAT THE LORD TOLD PAUL TO CONFER WITH THESE OTHER LEADERS AT JERUSALEM! (2:1-2)**

Notice there in verse two that he says that he “*went up by revelation.*”

**Now, why would the LORD do that?** We’re not told, but I personally believe that it was so that he would have a defense before the Galatian Church in the face of the Judaizers criticism of the Gospel he preached!

The essence of Paul’s message to Jew and Gentile alike was that **God’s salvation is offered to all people** regardless of race, sex, nationality, wealth, social standing, education or anything else!

He preached that **salvation and the forgiveness of sins comes through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, believing in His finished work of providing that salvation through His death, burial, and resurrection!**

**II. WE SEE THE MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE IN JERUSALEM! (GALATIANS 2:2-10; ACTS 15:1-35)**

**A. We See The Dissension And Dispute! (Acts 15:1-2)**

What was taking place with these Judaizers insisting that the Gentiles be circumcised to be recognized as Brethren had become a major problem!

*Vs 2* says that Paul and Barnabas “*had no small dissension and disputation with them!*” (The “*them*” in this case being the Judaizers!)

So, the two groups—Paul and Barnabas on one side and some chosen of these Judaizers on the other side went to Jerusalem to bring the matter before the Church leaders there! (i.e. The Apostles and elders)

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**B. We See The Missions Report Of What Paul And His Team Had Done Among The Gentiles! (Vs 3-4)**

God had used Paul and Barnabas and their team in a mighty way in their first missionary journeys among the Gentiles!

**C. We See The Judaizers Take Their Shots! (Vs 5)**

Realize that there are always going to be false teachers and accusers in the work of God! Satan opposes the pure grace of the Gospel in Christ Jesus because it is the **ONLY WAY TO SALVATION!**

**D. We See The Meeting Of The Apostles And Elders! (Vs 6)**

**E. We See Peter Take Charge Of The Meeting! (Vs 7-11)**

**F. We See Barnabas And Paul Testify Of What God Had Done By Them Among The Gentiles! (Vs 12)**

**G. We See James, The Half-Brother Of Jesus Have A Say! (Vs 13-21)**

**H. We See The Council Sent A Letter To Gentile Believers At Antioch And They Sent Judas And Silas With Paul And Barnabas To Confirm What Was In The Letter! (Vs 22-32)**

**III. THERE WAS HARMONY IN THE GOSPEL PREACHED BY PAUL AND THE OTHER APOSTLES!**

This meeting confirmed that the Gospel that Paul preached to both Jew and Gentile was the **SAME GOSPEL** that was being preached by the other Apostles! They were in **AGREEMENT!**

This meeting formally acknowledged the other Apostles approval of Paul’s preaching!

If the Galatian Churches or the Judaizers wanted approval from the other Apostles, this was it! Paul **WAS** preaching the whole Gospel!

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He WAS preaching the same Gospel as the other Apostles!  
Any confusion in the Gospel was not from any of the Apostles!

The confusion in the Gospel came from the Judaizers—The false teachers that wanted to add the burden of the law and especially circumcision to the Gentile Believers!

**Conclusion**

Repentance toward God and Faith toward the LORD Jesus Christ is all that was needed for Salvation then! It is all that is still needed now!

Its not complicated...it is simple!

What are you trusting for your salvation?

If it is anything other than the pure Gospel, you need to repent today and trust in Christ alone for your salvation!