

# GALATIANS

You Are Free!



Dr. Andy Woods

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## Questions Answered

- Who wrote it? Paul
- Who was it written to? Galatian believers
- Where was it written from? Syrian Antioch
- When was it written? A.D. 49
- Why was it written? Counteract the Judaizers teaching sanctification by works



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## 3 Phases of Salvation

- **Justification:** freedom from sin's penalty
- **Sanctification:** freedom from sin's power
- **Glorification:** freedom from sin's presence



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## Questions Answered



- What is inside? Autobiography, doctrine, application
- What is it about? Sanctification attained the same way as justification
- How does the book apply to daily life? How to be holy

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## Introduction (Gal 1:1-10)

- Greeting (Gal 1:1-2)
- Gospel (Gal 1:3-5)
- Denunciation (Gal 1:6-10)



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## Why Was It Written? Occasion

- Ad hominem attack against Paul
  - ◆ Acts 1:21-22
  - ◆ Apostleship (1 Cor 15:8-9)



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## Paul Defends His Apostleship (Gal 1:11—2:21)

- Independence (Gal 1:11-24)
- Interdependence (Gal 2:1-10)
- Rebuke of a lead apostle (Gal 2:11-21)



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## What is Inside? Structure

- 1–2: Autobiographical section
- 3–4: Doctrinal section
- 5–6: Practical section



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## Gal 3:1-5 Outline

- I. The charge (3:1)
- II. The questions (3:2-5)
  - ◆ A. How did you receive the Spirit? (2)
  - ◆ B. Are you now being perfected by the flesh? (3)
  - ◆ C. Have you suffered so much in vain? (4)
  - ◆ D. On what basis does God work miracles among you? (5)



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## Gal 3:6-9 Outline

- I. The pattern of Abraham (3:6)
- II. The progeny of Abraham (3:7)
- III. The purpose of Abraham (3:8)
- IV. The promise of Abraham (3:9)



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## Gal 3:10-25 Outline

- I. The Law's inability to justify (3:10-12)
- II. Christ redeemed us from the Law's curse (3:13-14)
- III. The Law does not nullify faith (3:15-18)
- IV. The purpose of the Law is to lead us to Christ (3:19-25)



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## The Privileges of Adulthood (3:26-29)

- 26-Sons of God
- 27-Baptism into Christ
- 28-One with other Christians
- 29-Children of Abraham



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### Gal 3–4 Overview

- 3: Doctrine explained
- 4: Doctrine illustrated



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### Gal 4 Overview

- 4: Doctrine illustrated
  - ◆ Domestic (1-11)
  - ◆ Personal (12-20)
  - ◆ Biblical (21-31)



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### Gal 4:21-31 Overview

- Introductory question (21)
- History (22-23)
- Allegory (24-26)
- Application (27-30)
- Conclusion (31)



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## Introductory Question (4:21)

- The Judaizers were zealous for the law



- Thus, Paul will use an example from the first book of the Law (Gen 16; 21)

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## History (Gal 4:22-23)

- Birth of Abraham's first two sons
- Natural birth of Ishmael from the slave woman Hagar (Gen 16)
- Supernatural birth of Isaac from the free woman Sarah (Gen 21)



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## Allegory (Gal 4:24a)

- Believers are not to allegorize the Bible
- The biblical text will tell us when allegorization is permissible (Rev 11:8)
- Paul's allegorization did not de-historicize
- Paul used the Judaizers tactics against them



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## Dangers of Allegorization



- Scripture is not being interpreted
- No way to test the conclusions of the allegorist
- Authority transfers from the text to the interpreter
- Eisegesis rather than exegesis

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## Reformers Denounced Allegories



Luther said: "Allegories are empty speculations and as it were the scum of Holy Scripture." "Origen's allegories are not worth so much dirt."

Martin Luther; Quoted by Zuck, *Basics of Bible Interpretation*, 45.

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<b>Mother</b>	Hagar	Sarah
<b>Mother's status</b>	Slave	Free
<b>Child</b>	Ishmael	Isaac
<b>Birth order</b>	1st	2nd
<b>Scripture</b>	Gen 16	Gen 21
<b>Birth</b>	Natural	Supernatural
<b>Work</b>	Man	God
<b>Accomplished</b>	Works	Faith
<b>Covenant</b>	Mosaic	Abrahamic
<b>City</b>	Earthly Jerusalem	Heavenly Jerusalem
<b>Salvation</b>	By the Law	By faith
<b>Result</b>	Slavery	Freedom

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## Grace Ushers in Blessing (4:27)

- Sarah/Isaac line= the line of blessing



- Isaiah 54:1
- Sarah has greater progeny than Hagar despite Sarah's initial barrenness
- Gen 22:2

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### Continue on in the Supernatural (4:28)

- Galatian believers are like Isaac who had a supernatural birth
- Continue on in sanctification through the same supernatural means
- Gal 3:3



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### Understand Why You Are Being Persecuted (4:29)

- Legalists always persecute those who walk by faith
- Illustration: Ishmael mocked Isaac at Isaac's weaning (Gen 21:8-9)



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### Excommunicate the Judaizers (4:30)

- Illustration-Sarah had Ishmael expelled so Isaac could receive the inheritance (Gen 21:10-12)
- Galatian believers are to expel the Judaizers since the Law brings no inheritance



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### Application (4:27-30)



- Grace Ushers in Blessing (4:27)
- Continue on in the Supernatural (4:28)
- Understand Why You Are Being Persecuted (4:29)
- Excommunicate the Judaizers (4:30)

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### Conclusion (4:31)



- You are the children of Sarah rather than Hagar
- Live according to this new identity
- Repudiate the bondage of the Law and instead live in the freedom offered by the Holy Spirit

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- Allegory (24-26)
- Application (27-30)
- Conclusion (31)



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