

Grace for Galatia
Galatians at a Gallup (Message 1)
 Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel

Galatians 1:1–5
INTRODUCTION

August 6, 2006

Who Were the Galatians?

NORTH GALATIA	Portion of Galatia inhabited by ethnic Galatians	Province of Galatia
SOUTH GALATIA	Portion of Galatia not inhabited by ethnic Galatians	

Summary of issues related to North versus South Galatian theory:

Name of Theory	Trips to Jerusalem before Writing	Trips to Galatia before Writing
North Galatian	3	1
South Galatian	2	1

1. Paul had been to Galatia once before writing Galatians

Paul's first visit to South Galatia was in Acts 13–14

Paul definitely did not visit North Galatia before Acts 16:6 (Even so, it refers to South Galatia)

2. Two (South Galatia theory) or 3 (North Galatia theory) visits to Jerusalem before writing Galatians

A. First trip to Jerusalem: Acts 9:26–29 // Galatians 1:18–20 (Summer AD 37)

B. Second trip to Jerusalem: Acts 11:30 // Galatians 2:1–10 (Fall AD 47)

Date of Galatians under a South Galatian theory (Early Fall AD 49)

C. Third trip to Jerusalem: Acts 15 — (Later Fall AD 49)

Date of Galatians under a North Galatian theory (after July AD 50)

3. In Galatians Paul wanted to prove that Peter now agreed with Paul on the Gospel:

If the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) happened before Paul wrote Galatians, quoting Acts 15:7–11 would have made his point.

In Galatians 2:11–21, Paul makes the point by recalling that he had rebuked Peter (at the time of Acts 11). Paul does this because **Acts 15 had not yet happened when Paul wrote Galatians.**

When did Paul write Galatians? 49 AD

Early chronology in relation to Paul:

Christ was crucified on April 3, AD 33

The Church began on Pentecost (Sunday, May 24, AD 33)

Paul believed in Christ in AD 35 and went to Damascus and Arabia (Galatians 1:17)

After 3 years (Acts 9:23–26; 2 Cor 11:32–33; Gal 1:18) he left Damascus for Jerusalem.

The 2 Corinthians reference says he left Damascus for Jerusalem while Aretus was king in Damascus. Aretus was king from Spring AD 37 until sometime in AD 39.

My date for this first time that Paul reached Jerusalem = summer AD 37.

Fourteen years (after Paul believed in Christ) he returned a second time to Jerusalem (Acts 11:30; Galatians 2:1). The idea is that he returned in the fourteenth year. Autumn AD 47

In a nutshell, what was Paul's Message in Galatians?

Galatians 1:6–7a: I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another. . . .

Did they cease to have eternal life because of turning to a false gospel?

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made ~~perfect~~ [mature] by the flesh?

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Message

Paul, an apostle by divine appointment, and his associates wish grace and peace to the Galatians from the Father and the Son, who offered Himself as a payment for our sins for the purpose that He might deliver us out of this present evil age according to the will of our eternally glorious God (Galatians 1:1–4)

Application