

**B I B L E S T U D Y O U T L I N E**

**Book**: The Epistle of Galatians

**Author**: Apostle Paul

**Audience**: Church at Galatia

**Date Written**: 40-60 AD

**Reason for Writing**: This book was written during one of Paul’s missionary journeys. He was traveling through Antioch, Lystra, Iconium and Derbe which were cities in Galatia. Paul is principally concerned with the controversy surrounding gentile Christians and the Mosaic law during the Apostolic Age\*. Paul argues that the gentile Galatians do not need to adhere to the tenets of the Mosaic Law, particularly religious male circumcision by contextualizing the role of the law considering the revelation of Christ. The Epistle to the Galatians has exerted enormous influence on the history of Christianity, the development of Christian theology, and the study of the Apostle Paul.

The central dispute in the letter concerns the question of how Gentiles could convert to Christianity, which shows that this letter was written at a very early stage in church history, when most Christians were Jewish or Jewish proselytes, which historians refer to as the Jewish Christians. Another indicator that the letter is early is that there is no hint in the letter of a developed organization within the Christian community at large. This puts it during the lifetime of Paul himself.

*\*The Apostolic Ages refers to the time from the death of Jesus to the death of the twelve Apostles.*

**Outline:**

**Introduction: The Cross and the New Age (1:1–10)**

1. Prescript (1:1–5)
2. Rebuke: The Occasion of the Letter (1:6–10)

**The Truth of the Gospel (1:11–2:21)**

1. How Paul Received and Defended the Gospel: Paul and the "Pillars" (1:11–2:14)
2. The Truth of the Gospel Defined (2:15–21)

**The Defense of the Gospel (3:1–5:12)**

1. Rebuke and Reminder: Faith, Spirit, and Righteousness (3:1–6)
2. Argument: Abraham's Children through Incorporation into Christ by Faith (3:7–4:7)
3. Appeal (4:8–31)
4. Exhortation and Warning: Faith, Spirit, and Righteousness (5:1–12)

**The Life of the Gospel (5:13–6:10)**

1. The Basic Pattern of the New Life: Serving One Another in Love (5:13–15)
2. Implementing the New Life: Walking by the Spirit (5:16–24)
3. Some Specific Parameters of the New Life (5:25–6:6)
4. The Urgency of Living the New Life (6:7–10)

**Closing: Cross and New Creation (6:11–18)**