Brentwood Bible Fellowship
Reading thru the New Testament
2017

Week 12
The Book of Hebrews
Hebrews 12-13; Galatians 1-3

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

Galatians 2:20
NAS Version

March 20 - March 26

Monday - Hebrews 12 A Father's Discipline

Tuesday - Hebrews 13 Directions for a life worth living

Wednesday - Galatians 1 Paul's personal defense of his apostolic authority

Thursday - Galatians 2 Paul's defense of his ministry

Friday - Galatians 3 Faith is better than the law

Saturday – Review

Sunday - Review

Introduction to

The Letter to The Galatians

The Author: The Apostle Paul

Paul introduces himself as the author of the letter to the Galatians in the first word of the first verse of the first chapter of Galatians. His authorship is not questioned.

The recipients and the date:

The Date is either 49 AD or 57 AD depending on who the recipients were.
Galatians is the only letter written by Paul to numerous churches in numerous communities, rather than to just one community or city, such as was the case with the letters written to the churches in Corinth and Ephesus.

Galatia was known for both its political and ethnic designations. Politically it was a province of Rome. Today, it would geographically be a portion of modern day Turkey. The inhabitants of the entire region would have been known as Galatians, no matter what their ethnic backgrounds. A similar example would be that everyone who is a citizen of the United States is known as an American, no matter what their ethnicity.

The north central portion of the province was inhabited by Celtics, known as Gauls, who had originally come from France. They had migrated through Germany and Italy sacking Rome on the way, in about the third century B.C. and settled in the land that became known as Galatia after the Gauls.

If the letter was written to Northern Galatia, where the Gauls had located, it was written to churches which Paul had established on his second missionary journey. (Acts 16:6). That would have placed the date of the writing at about 57A.D.

If the letter was addressed to the churches in South Galatia, (Antioch Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe), churches established on Paul's first missionary journey, then the letter could have been written as early as 49 A.D., making it one of Paul's earliest letters.

Though, there is no conclusive evidence as to the location to which the letter was sent and therefore no definitive date, the most predominant views seem to believe that it was written to the Northern tribes of Galatia, therefore making the 57 A.D. date the most probable.

The Issue:

Though the Galatians churches were predominantly Gentile, there were some Jews there who greatly influenced the membership of the Galatian churches. They claimed to be there with authority given to them from the church in Jerusalem.

They denied that Paul was an apostle, thus undermining his authority and teaching. They also taught that the gentile believers, in order to be truly saved, must practice circumcision and keep the Jewish law. Salvation, according to them was not by grace and grace alone, as Paul had taught, but salvation, the gospel, was rather a matter of grace plus the works of the law, which was really no gospel at all. Grace plus whatever, is not good news for the any believer.

They wanted Christianity to be part of Judaism rather than distinct from it.

The Purpose:

Galatians was written to establish Paul's authority as an apostle; to refute the errors being taught by the Judaizes; to establish salvation was by God's grace and by His grace alone; and so, establish the believer's freedoms in Christ as opposed to legalistic bondage to the law.

Theme:

The just shall live by faith!

Key Chapter:

Galatians 5

Key verses:

Galatians 2:20-21; Galatians 5:1

The Outline:

Galatians can be divided into three sections.

1) Galatians 1-2 Paul's authority as an apostle is defended

2) Galatians 3-4 Teaching of Justification by Faith of the believer

3) Galatians 5-6 Application to our live of the doctrine of Justification by Faith through God's grace