

Breaking Free:
Introduction to Galatians, Part 2
Freedom in Christ and the Gentile Believer, Galatians 1:1-5

Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Context (like reading through the Old Testament Minor Prophets)

Who wrote this?

Galatians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me.

Who wrote this?

Paul (formerly a persecutor of the church and a Pharisee, now a believer in Christ)
An apostle (someone who was sent out for a purpose)

Galatians 1:2-5 To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

Who received it? Churches of Galatia

One of the greatest moments in church history as it set forth the concept of taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole world through the sending of missionaries, who's purpose was to share the Good News and plant churches.

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas...and Saul. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

The intense theological challenged that followed. The sermon and response that launched a raging debate in the early church, Antioch

See Map

Acts 13:44-45 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

Acts 13:46-47 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.'"

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Why was it written?

False teachings by false teachers

Galatians 1:6-7 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

When was it written?

After the first missionary journey

Before or after the church council of Acts 15

Before the second missionary journey

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The Rescue Mission of God

Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son

Ephesians 5:15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

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The real reason Paul is so upset over the false teachings in the churches. These false teachings are damaging the real message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The real message of the Good News of Jesus is the glory of God forever and ever.

That's why He rescued us. That's why He saved us. We are saved, by faith in Christ, so that we can know the plan and purpose of God. This is the will of God. God's will, plan, and purposes, is to rescue us from this evil age, this darkened world, in order that we might experience and enjoy His glory forever and ever.

These false teachers were a distraction from the very purpose of the Good News of Jesus. The false teachers were pointing these new believers to things that are not Good News. These false teachers directed the attention away from Jesus and onto the Old Testament, Mosaic Law. There is no rescue there.

If the Mosaic Law could rescue us from this present, dark and evil age, then the life of Jesus along with His death and resurrection would be useless and unnecessary. We need rescue. The Law of Moses provides no rescue.

One soul won to Christ is better than a thousand merely moralized and still sleeping in their sins. Spurgeon

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