

New Testament Survey:
Galatians

Date of writing: 49 A.D.
Recipients: Galatian churches

Paul had labored long in Galatia building the churches there. He was stunned when the Galatians began to incorporate Jewish practices into their Christianity. Paul's argument: Faith in Christ automatically incorporates a believer into the promises of Abraham.

Question of allegory: Is allegory an acceptable means of exegesis of Scripture?

Ephesians

Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians compose the group of letters known as the Prison Epistles. It is believed Paul composed these epistles during his first imprisonment in Rome.

Some scholars believe Ephesians was written by a later disciple of Paul, but there is no evidence to support this claim.

Themes of the book:

1. Election. God chooses people for salvation and for great responsibilities in the implementation of His plan.
2. Mystery. The mystery of the Church is the inclusion of Gentiles in the salvific plan God began with Abraham.
3. Unity. Gentiles and Jews are united in the Church.
4. Relationships. Paul's words about marriage are among the most beautiful written about the marriage relationship. Paul also discusses other relationships.
5. Spiritual maturity. Paul's masterpiece description of spiritual warfare is found in Ephesians 6.

Outline of Galatians

Source: Ben Witherington III, *Grace in Galatia: A Commentary on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998).

- I. Epistolary greeting: (1:1-5)
- II. *Exordium*: 2 Gospels? (1:6-10)
- III. *Narratio*: The Origin and character of the gospel of grace (1:11-2:14)
- IV. By the Faithfulness of Christ, not by works of the Law (2:15-21)
- V. Argument I: The faith of Abraham and foolishness of the Galatians (3:1-18)
 - A. Division 1: The appeal to spiritual experience (3:1-5)
 - B. Division 2: The appeal to Scripture (3:6-14)
 - C. Division 3: The appeal to legal covenants (3:15-18)
- VI. Argument II: The goal of the guardian, the function of the faithful one (3:19-4:7)
 - A. Division 1: Why the Law was added (3:19-22)
 - B. Division 2: The guardians's goal (3:23-29)
 - C. Division 3: The heirs apparent (4:1-7)
- VII. Argument III: Shared experience (4:8-20)
 - A. Division 1: Deja Vu (4:8-11)
 - B. Division 2: Paul's labor pains (4:12-20)
- VIII. Argument IV: The allegory of antipathy (4:21-5:10)
- IX. Argument V: The unkindest cut of all (5:2-15)
 - A. Division 1: Testimony from the top (5:2-6)
 - B. Division 2: What cuts and what counts (5:7-12)
 - C. Division 3: Freedom's service, love's law (5:13-15)
- X. Argument VI: Antisocial behavior and eschatological fruit (5:16-26)
 - A. Division 1: Foiling the fulfillment of the flesh (5:16-21)
 - B. Division 2: The Spirit's fruit (5:22-26)
- XI. Argument VIII: Bearable burdens and the yoke of Christ (6:1-10)
 - A. Division 1: The law of Christ (6:1-5)
 - B. Division 2: Doing good to teachers and others (6:6-10)
- XII. Paul's autograph: 6:11
- XIII. *Peroratio* (6:12-17)
- XIV. Epistolary Closing (6:18)

Outline of Ephesians

Source: *Holman Bible Handbook* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 1992).

- I. Introduction (1:1-2)
- II. God's Purposes in Christ (1:3-3:21)
 - A. God's purpose in history (1:3-14)
 - B. Know God and His power (1:15-23)
 - C. Redeemed by grace (2:1-10)
 - D. Reconciliation (2:11-18)
 - E. The new society (2:19-22)
 - F. The divine mystery (3:1-13)
 - G. United in His love (3:14-21)
- III. God's Purposes in the Church (4:1-6:20)
 - A. God's purposes in the Church (4:1-6)
 - B. The gifts of the Church (4:7-16)
 - C. Holy living (4:17-5:21)
 - D. New relationships (5:22-6:9)
 - E. The warfare of the New People (6:10-20)
- IV. Conclusion (6:21-24)