

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Reading Questions

Directions: Answer the questions below on a sheet of loose-leaf paper. Complete sentences are not necessary, only complete answers.

Intro to Galatians

1. According to the "North Galatia" theory, when was this letter probably written?
2. According to the "South Galatia" theory, when was this letter probably written?
3. In either case, where was it written from?
4. What is the key event in Paul's career mentioned in this letter that both location theories hinge upon?
5. What were the Galatians being "enticed" to add to Paul's gospel?
6. The intro suggests that the Jewish Christians who came to Galatia after Paul had previously been members of which Jewish sect?
7. What claim were these Judaizers able to make about Paul's relationship to Jesus in order to undermine his authority?
8. The intro calls Galatians a "summary of basic Pauline theology," with themes that are more fully developed in which letter?

Galatians 1

9. In the greeting, Paul specifically says that he is NOT what kind of apostle?
 - a. What kind of apostle is he?
10. What is missing from this letter, after the greeting?
11. What had the Galatians done that "amazed" Paul?
12. What does Paul say should happen to anyone who preaches a gospel other than the one he preached while in Galatia?
13. In 1:12, where does Paul claim that his gospel came from?
14. Briefly describe Paul's former way of life, before his experience of the risen Christ.
 - a. How long after this experience did Paul go to Jerusalem, and who did he meet with there?

Galatians 2

15. How long after Paul's first trip to Jerusalem was it before he made his second trip?
 - a. Who went with him?
 - b. Why did he go back?
 - c. In v.6, Paul mentions those who "were reputed to be important." Who were they?
 - d. What did they require that Paul add to his gospel?
16. Paul mentions three "pillars" of the Jerusalem church. Who are they?
 - a. What did they ask Paul to be "mindful" of, when preaching to the Gentiles?
17. Who did Paul "oppose to his face" in Antioch, and why?
18. Judging by what Paul says in 2:15-21, how did Jews think they would be "justified"?
 - a. How does Paul think that people can be justified?
19. Explain 2:17- Why would Paul's opponents think that Christ is a "minister of sin" if those who seek to be "justified in Christ" are found to be sinners?
20. Paul says that "through the law" he died to what?
21. In v21 Paul claims that his gospel does not nullify the grace of God, "for if justification comes through the law, then..." what?

Galatians 3

22. Twice in Gal 3:1-6 Paul calls the Galatians by a rather impolite name. What is it? (a Greek adjective! a)nohtoj)
 - a. What have they been lead to believe that causes Paul to call them by this name?
 - b. What important OT figure does Paul use as to support his claim that justification comes through faith?
 - c. How does this person's relationship with God refute the idea that justification comes through following the Mosaic Law?
23. Paul says that "Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." What does he mean (or, how did Christ become a "curse")?
24. in v15, Paul talks about that important OT figure again, and he has a unique interpretation of the promise that God makes to this person. To whom does Paul believe this promise refers?
 - a. To whom do Jews believe this promise refers?
25. If Christ has nullified the law, why then, according to Paul, was the law necessary in the first place?

- a. When did the law stop being valid?
- 26. Paul claims that before faith came, we were held "in custody." By what?
- 27. If we belong to Christ, then whose "descendant" are we?

Galatians 4

- 28. In 4:1-7, Paul compares being Christian to a specific type of (legal) relationship. What is it?
- 29. What does Paul claim that the Galatians were "slaves" to before they became Christian?
- 30. Acc to 2:12-14, why did Paul preach the gospel to the Galatians in the first place?
 - a. Paul says that when he was with the Galatians, they were so kind that they would have done what for him?
- 31. In 4:21-31, Paul claims that a specific story in Genesis is actually an allegory. Explain the following:
 - a. Who are the two women in this story (one is not named explicitly), and what do they represent?
 - b. Who are the two children in this story (one is not named explicitly), and who do they represent?
 - c. Why would "Judaizers" (like those who visited Galatia) find this interpretation offensive?

Galatians 5

- 32. Paul tells the Galatians that Christ "will be of no benefit" to them if they do what?
 - a. If they do this, they will be "bound" to what?
- 33. Paul says that if were to preach "circumcision," what would be abolished?
- 34. What does Paul think that those who are upsetting the Galatians should do to themselves?
- 35. Paul says that the whole law is fulfilled in one statement. What is it?
 - a. **Impress me:** What is ironic about the fact that Paul says this?
- 36. What are the two "desires" that Paul says are opposed to each other?
- 37. 5:21 contains a disputed word that is spelled differently in different manuscripts, resulting in two different meanings.
 - a. The footnote provides English transliterations of the two Greek words. Write them in Greek, giving the English meaning for each.
 - b. Which word have the NAB translators chosen?

Galatians 6

- 38. What should the Galatians do for one another to "fulfill the law of Christ"?
- 39. What will the "one who sows for the flesh" reap?
- 40. What will the "one who sows for the spirit" reap?
- 41. Paul says the Galatians should "do good to all," but especially to whom?
- 42. What was distinct about Paul's handwriting in comparison to his amanuensis?
- 43. Paul claims that "neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only..." what?
- 44. Why does Paul say that, "from now on, let no one make troubles" for him?