

28 February

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Galatians – week 1

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever been on a missionary trip to another region or nation? Share a story of your experience during this trip?
2. According to v.1; who was the human author of the book of Galatians? (**The apostle Paul**).
3. Who was Paul's mentor and educator? (**Rabbi Gamaliel – Acts 22:3**).
4. According to Galatians 1:14; in which religion was Paul advancing in beyond many of his own age and people? (**Judaism**).

 Let's go deeper

5. What is Paul's other name? (**Saul (Hebrew); Paul (Roman / Gentile)**).
6. Can you name another passage of scripture that Paul speaks of his own personal testimony? (**See Philippians 3:4 – 9**).
7. Can you name the scriptures of Paul's first missionary trip with Barnabas? (**see Acts 13:4 – 14:26; the journey took them 1.5years**).
8. What were the false teachings that infiltrated the church? (**Jesus plus circumcision and follow to Jewish customs. They were teaching Jesus plus a movement - see Galatians 2:3; 2:11 – 14; 5:6; 6:12 -13**).

 Let's apply this

9. Here are 4 questions to ask yourself to help you discern falsehood:
 - Is there a "new gospel"? (No, the Gospel of Jesus Christ never changes).
 - Is there rejection of other believers? (John 3:16, the gospel is for all the world)
 - Is there demonic revelation? (Galatians 1:8; even if an angel brings a message that does not agree with the gospel of the bible, it is cursed. Ex: Mormons).
 - Is the motivation to love God or fear man? (The gospel is motivated by love, a love for God and others. False religion is motivated by fear of man).

SUMMARY:

- **The book of Galatians – No Other Gospel**

Read: Galatians 1:1 – 10
v.1 – 10; It is clear that the human author is Paul, as he states this in the first verse.
Who was Paul? **Acts 22:3** – I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia; and educated by rabbi Gamaliel. **Gal. 1:13 – 14;** He was advancing in Judaism and persecuted the church. **Acts 7:58 – 59** – He approved the stoning of Stephen. **Acts 9:3 – 17** – He was converted; called and commissioned. **Acts 9:20** – He starts preaching Jesus in Damascus. **Galatians 1:18** – He stays 3 years in Damascus. **Acts 9:26** – He meets Peter and James in Jerusalem. **Acts 9:30** – Saul flees to Tarsus (home town). **Acts 9:30 – 11:25** – 8 years later. **Acts 11:25** – Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch. **Acts 13:9** – Saul (Hebrew) becomes Paul (Roman / Gentile name). **Philippians 3:4 – 9;** He explains his testimony.

What is an apostle? (see Acts 1:21 – 24).

What are they called to do? (see Eph.4:11 – 16 and Eph.2:20).

Background to churches in Galatia: Paul's 1st missionary trip (**Acts 13:4 – 14:26**)

Acts 13:4 – sailed from Antioch – Seleucia to Cyprus. **Acts 13:6** – they travelled the whole island until they came to Paphos. **Acts 13:13** – From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia.... **Acts. 13:14** – From Perga they went on to Psidian Antioch. **Acts 14:1** – at Iconium. **Acts 14:8** – in Lystra. **Acts 14:20b** – the next day he and Barnabas left Derbe. **Acts 14:24** – after going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, and when they had preached the Word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. **Acts 14:26** – From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch.

Galatians is written to churches in Antioch in Psidian; Iconium; Lystra and Derbe. After the churches were founded, Paul left the region and false teachers motivated by pride entered the churches to reject Paul's authority and teaching, which split the church and discouraged people. This false teaching taught that, to truly be saved, someone needed more than faith in Jesus and must be a circumcised Jew who followed Jewish social customs. They were teaching "Jesus plus a movement".

Jesus works in three ways:

1. **Jesus works for you:** Jesus lived the perfect life we have not lived, died the death for sin we should have died, rose from death to defeat the enemy we could not conquer, and gives the gift of salvation that we cannot earn. It's called grace.
2. **Jesus works in you:** The Holy Spirit who empowered the life of Christ lives in a believer. He gives us a new heart, nature, power and desires to transform believers.
3. **Jesus works through you:** These works of Jesus through us are called "fruit".