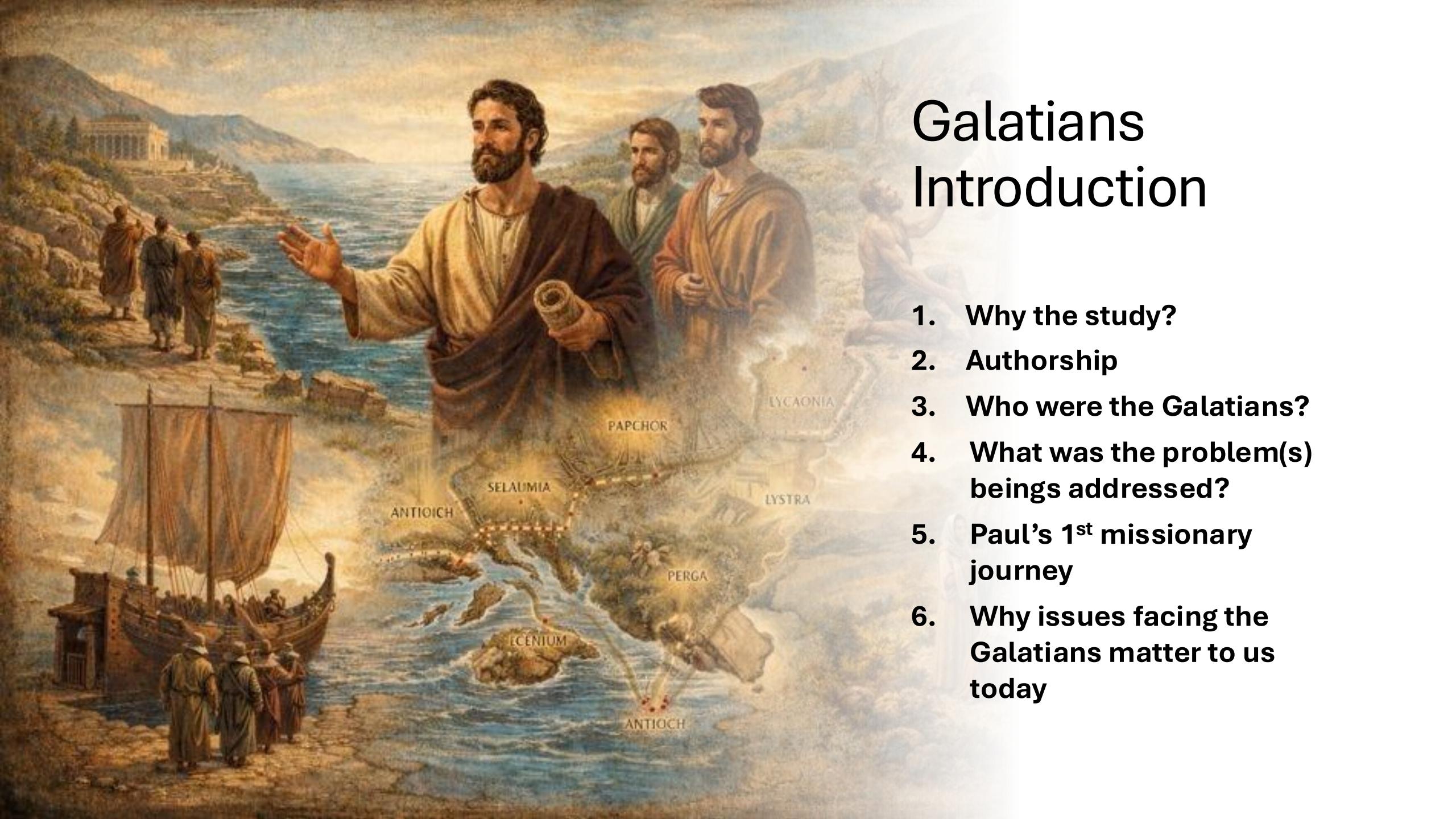




A study of Galatians

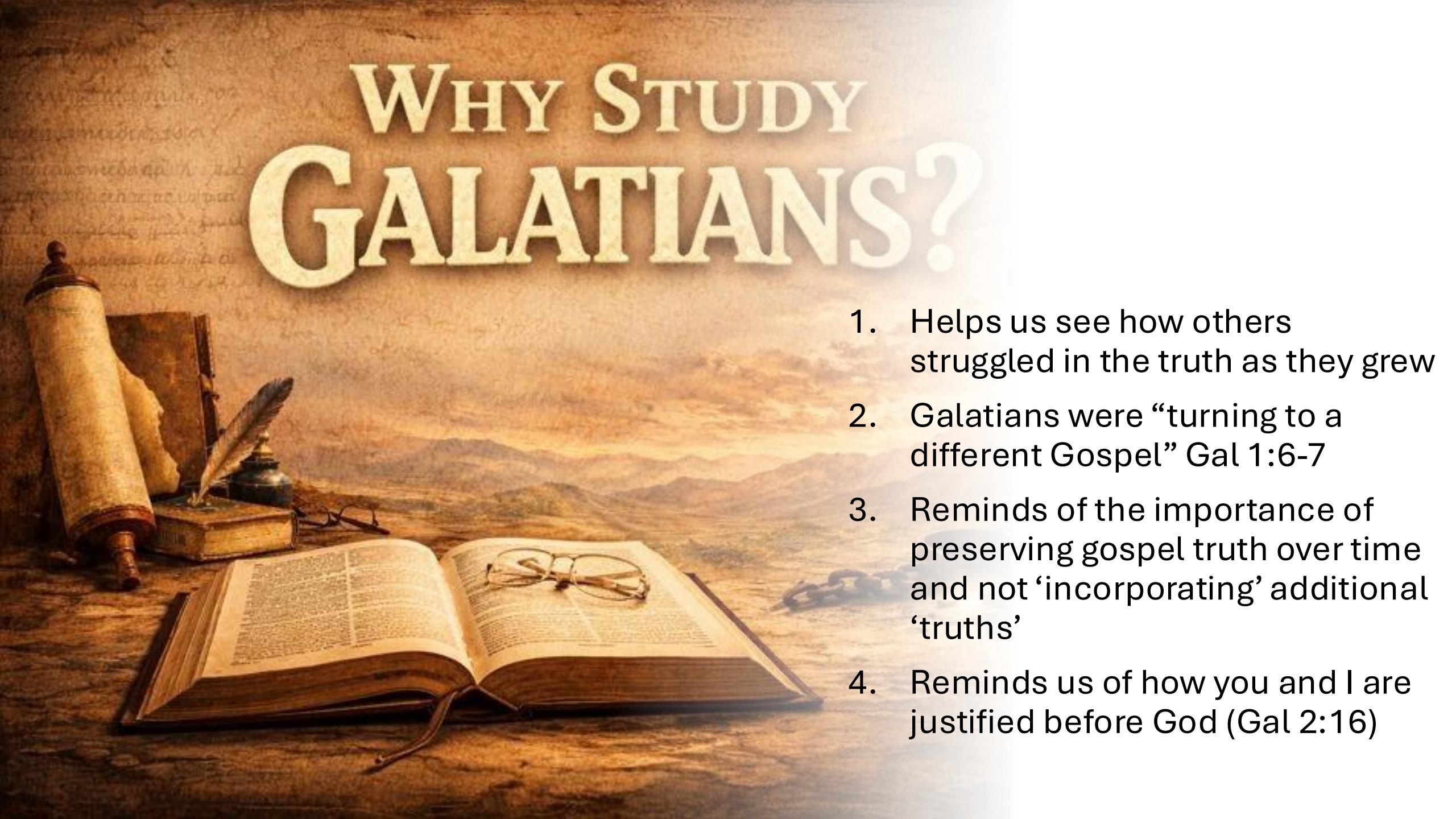
Introduction



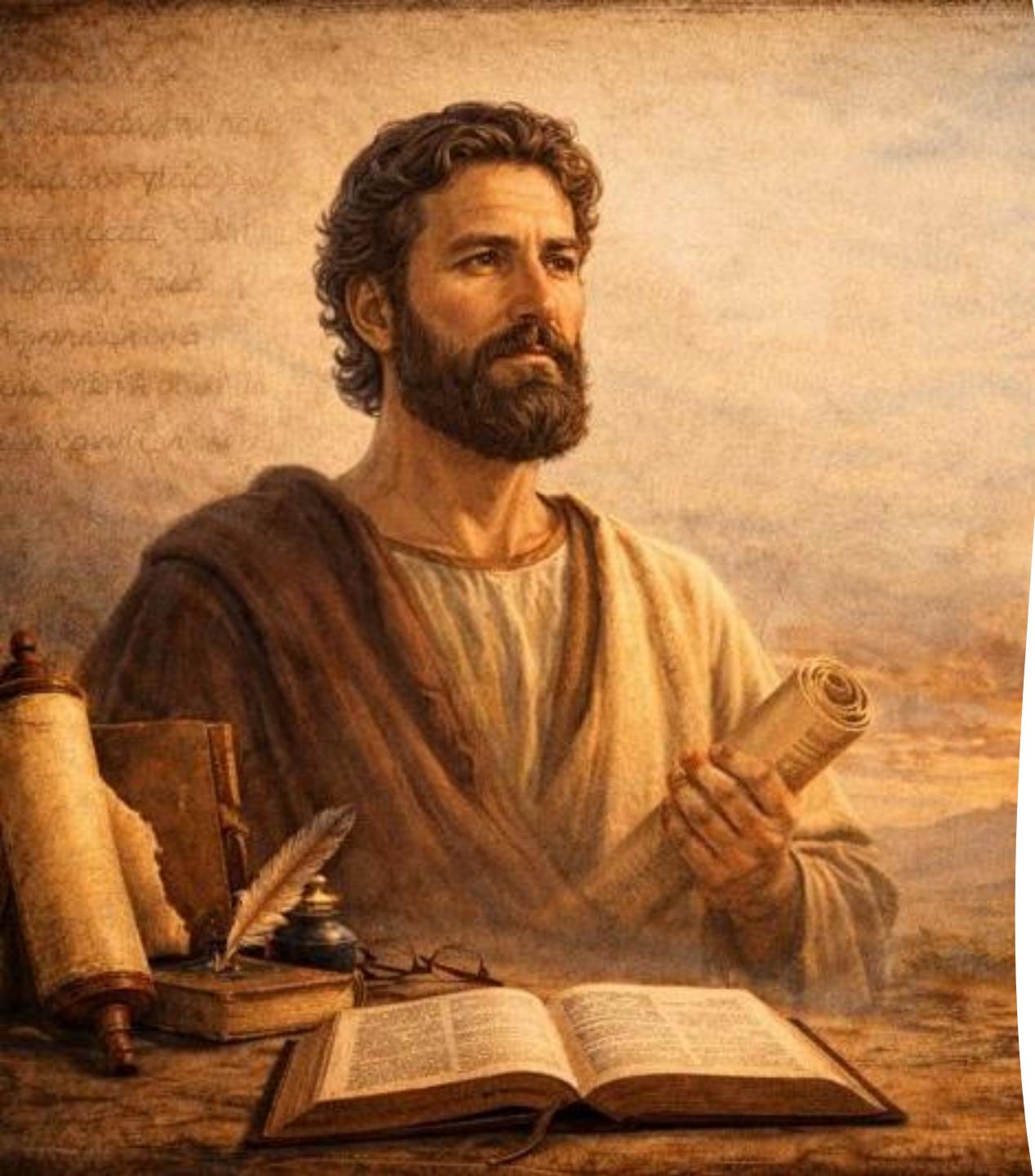
Galatians Introduction

- 1. Why the study?**
- 2. Authorship**
- 3. Who were the Galatians?**
- 4. What was the problem(s) being addressed?**
- 5. Paul's 1st missionary journey**
- 6. Why issues facing the Galatians matter to us today**

WHY STUDY GALATIANS?



1. Helps us see how others struggled in the truth as they grew
2. Galatians were “turning to a different Gospel” Gal 1:6-7
3. Reminds of the importance of preserving gospel truth over time and not ‘incorporating’ additional ‘truths’
4. Reminds us of how you and I are justified before God (Gal 2:16)



Authorship

- The apostle Paul (Gal 1:1)
- His letter was “not from men, nor through man”
- But rather.. (Gal 1:11-12)
.....By revelation of Jesus Christ
- Finally – Gal 2:7-9 makes the point...
.....his authority was affirmed by other apostles

Why this matters?

Rejecting ‘Paul’s gospel’ = rejecting God’s gospel

What do we know about Galatia?

1. What was Galatia in the 1st century?
Answer: A Roman province
2. What country is broadly equivalent to that area then known as Galatia?
Answer: Turkey
3. Who were recipients of this letter?
Answer: members of the ecclesia's in (Pisidian) Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe





CAPPADOCIA

Paul and Barnabas set out from Antioch and journey to Salamis.

Paul's First Journey (Acts 13-14)

www.BibleMapper.com

Modified by: HolyLandPhotos.org

What do we know about Galatia?

4. What young disciple grew up in Galatia?

Answer: Timothy

5. What city was Timothy from?

Answer: Lystra (Acts 16:1)

6. When was this letter penned?

Answer: depends on what Galatians 2 is describing



What do we know about Galatians?

7. What was likely timing?

Answers:

- 1st missionary journey (12-18 months)
- Galatians written shortly after ended (month to a year)
- Jerusalem council (AD 49)



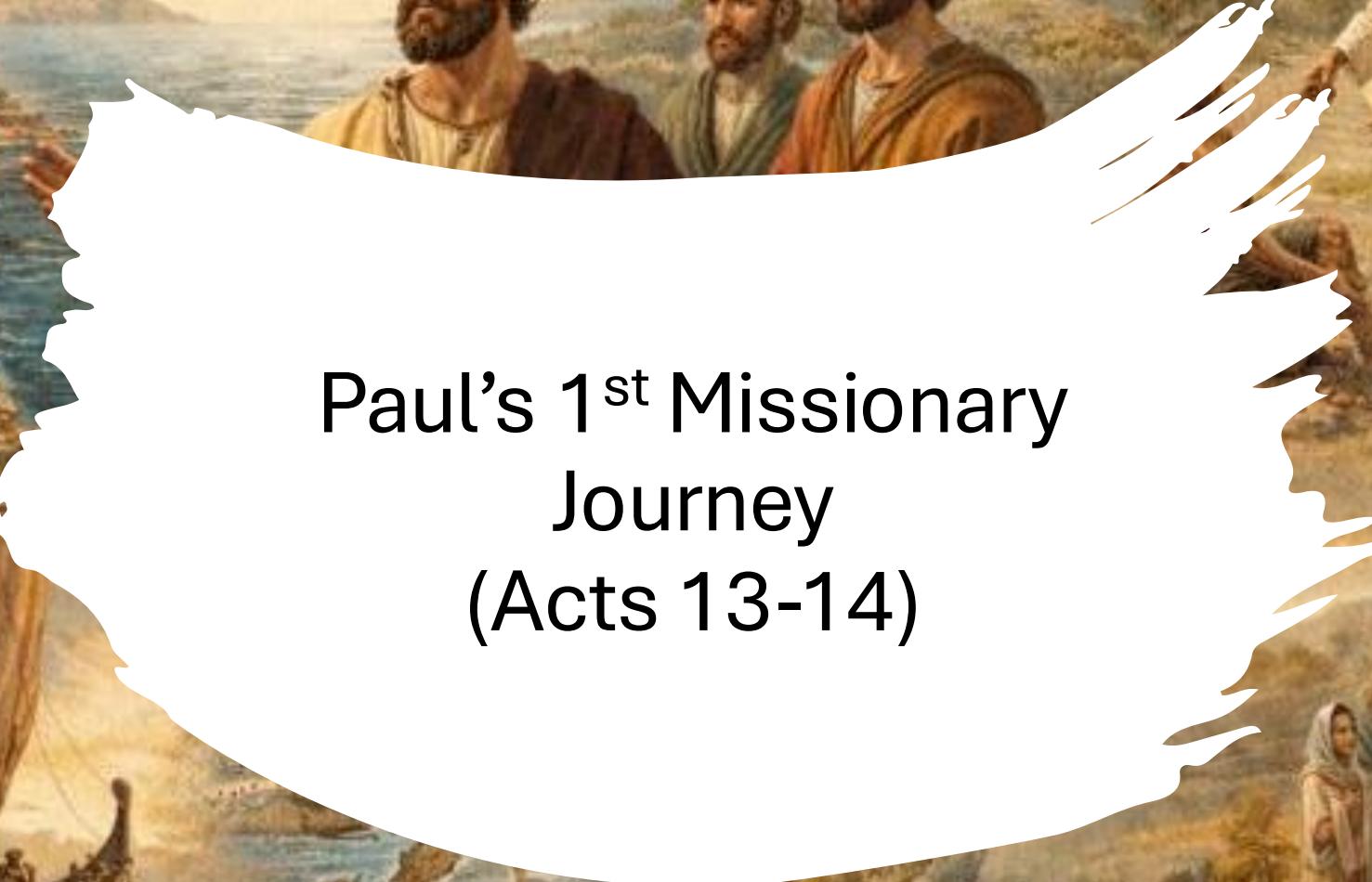
What do we know about Galatians?

8. What are the primary issues being addressed in this letter?

Answers:

- Believers being compelled to be circumcised (Gal 6:12)
- Law-keeping presented as necessary for full 'justification' (Gal 5:2-5)
- Essentially – faith in Jesus Christ alone was not sufficient for salvation





Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)



Paul's 1st Missionary Journey

1. Why did Paul decide to go on this journey?

Answer: The Holy Spirit instructed them to (Acts 13:1-2)

2. What was the 'gospel' promise made to the fathers? (Acts 13:32)

Answers:

- God would **bless all** nations through Abraham's seed (Gen 12:3, 22:18)
- A seed who would reign forever (not David) Act 13:36
- God raised up Jesus as that seed



Paul's 1st Missionary Journey

3. What is the key argument that Paul is addressing as he teaches in Pisidian Antioch?

Answer: The 'gospel' applies to gentiles without being enslaved by law-keeping (Acts 13:38-39)

4. What happened (initially) as Paul preached?

Answers:

- People were begging for more (vs. 42)
- Jews and proselytes urged them to continue in God's grace (vs. 43)
- Whole city assembled (vs. 44)



Paul's 1st Missionary Journey

5. Why did Paul leave Pisidian Antioch?

Answer: Jews incited a persecution (vs. 50)

6. Why did he leave Iconium?

Answer:

- He became aware of an attempt to mistreat and stone them (Acts 14:2-6)

This continued in Lystra and Derbe (vs. 19) where Paul was stoned and left.

Relevance for Galatians?

- Everywhere Paul went in Galatia there was strong opposition – by Judizers



Judaizers

If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews. Galatians 2:14



What are they?



What problem did they present?

Judaizers



What are they?

- Jewish believers who taught that faith in Christ was not sufficient by itself (Acts 15:1; Gal 1:6-7)
- They required circumcision for Gentile believers (Gal 5:2)
- Observance of Mosaic Law practices (Acts 15:5, Gal 4:10)
- They would follow Paul into Gentile ecclesias (Acts 15:1, Gal 2:4)
- Pressured believers to “live as Jews” (Gal 2:12-14)
- Appealed to tradition and external conformity (Gal 6:12-14)

Judaizers



What problem did they present?

- Their tendency was to add requirements that God did not require (i.e., circumcision, law-keeping)
- This meant a distorted gospel (Gal 1:6-7; Gal 2:16)
- It returned believers back to slavery under the law (Gal 4:7-9; 5:1)
- It disrupts ecclesial unity (Gal 1:7; 5:15)

But ultimately....

- They undermine the perfect work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal 2:21, 5:4)

Can we Judaize today?

Can we Judaize today?

Action:		

Can we Judaize today?

Action:	Rule-Driven:	

Can we Judaize today?

Action:	Rule-Driven:	Love-Driven:

Can we Judaize today?

Action:	Rule-Driven	Love-Driven
Ecclesial Attendance		
Ecclesial Service		
Conduct		
Readings / Praying		
Care of the brethren		

Can we Judaize today?

Action:	Rule-Driven	Love-Driven
Ecclesial Attendance	I attend all activities because faithful believers are expected to be present	
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The Judaizers logic model:

The Starting Point:

A spiritually motivated believer will:

- Want to be with the brethren
- Prioritize ecclesial life
- Be present as often as reasonably possible

This is **good, healthy, and expected**

→ *Gal 5:13; Heb 10:24–25*

True or False? True

The Judaizers logic model:

We all agreed that last slide to be true, here's how logic can flow:

1. Love produces presence/attendance/involvement – agree?
2. *Presence becomes visible and measurable* – yes?
3. *We start to conflate (assume): presence = ?
Spiritual motivation*
4. *This assumption now flips logic that presence is no longer
evidence of spiritual health, it becomes the definition.*

Here becomes the Judaizer's logic: Spiritually motivated people attend everything → therefore attendance proves spiritual motivation → therefore motivation is assessed by attendance.

The Judaizers logic model:

The (Reverse) Starting Point:

A **spiritually motivated believer** will:

- Desire fellowship
- Value brothers and sisters shared walk and relationships
- Make room for ecclesial life when possible

The (Reverse) Starting Point:

A **non-spiritually motivated believer** has:

- Diminished desire to fellowship
- Diminished desire no longer draws the believer to the brothers and sisters
- Absence becomes normalised (justified)
- Gradually, absence is reframed as neutral or inconsequential

True or False? True

The reasoning: Attendance doesn't define faith → therefore attendance doesn't matter → therefore absence says nothing about spiritual health ." *True or False? False*

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Readings / Praying	I read and pray because a faithful believer should	I read and pray because I want to know God and be shaped by Him
Care of the brethren	I check in or help because it is expected	I notice needs and respond because the brethren matter to me



Why the issues facing the Galatians still matter today

- Our nature still feels the requirement to add to faith (Gal 2:16)
- Faith can get confused with ‘rule keeping’ and measuring ourselves against others (Gal 4:6-7)
- Do our actions flow from love and produce fruit of the Spirit or do they flow from proving our ‘worth’ (Gal 5:6)
- Do we recognize our freedom in Christ or have we returned to ‘bondage’ without realizing it? (Gal 4:8-10)