

A study of Galatians

Introduction



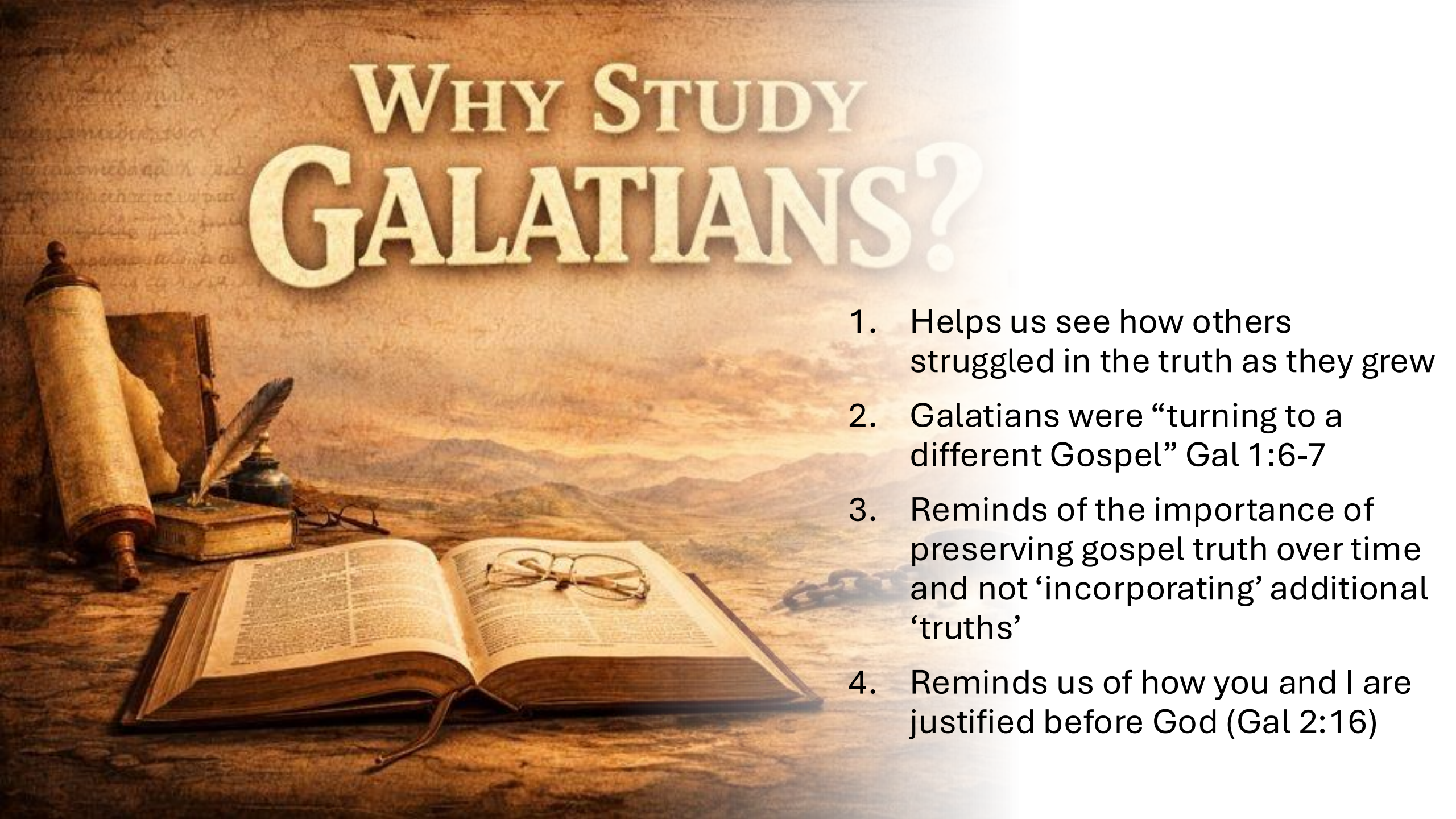
Galatians Introduction

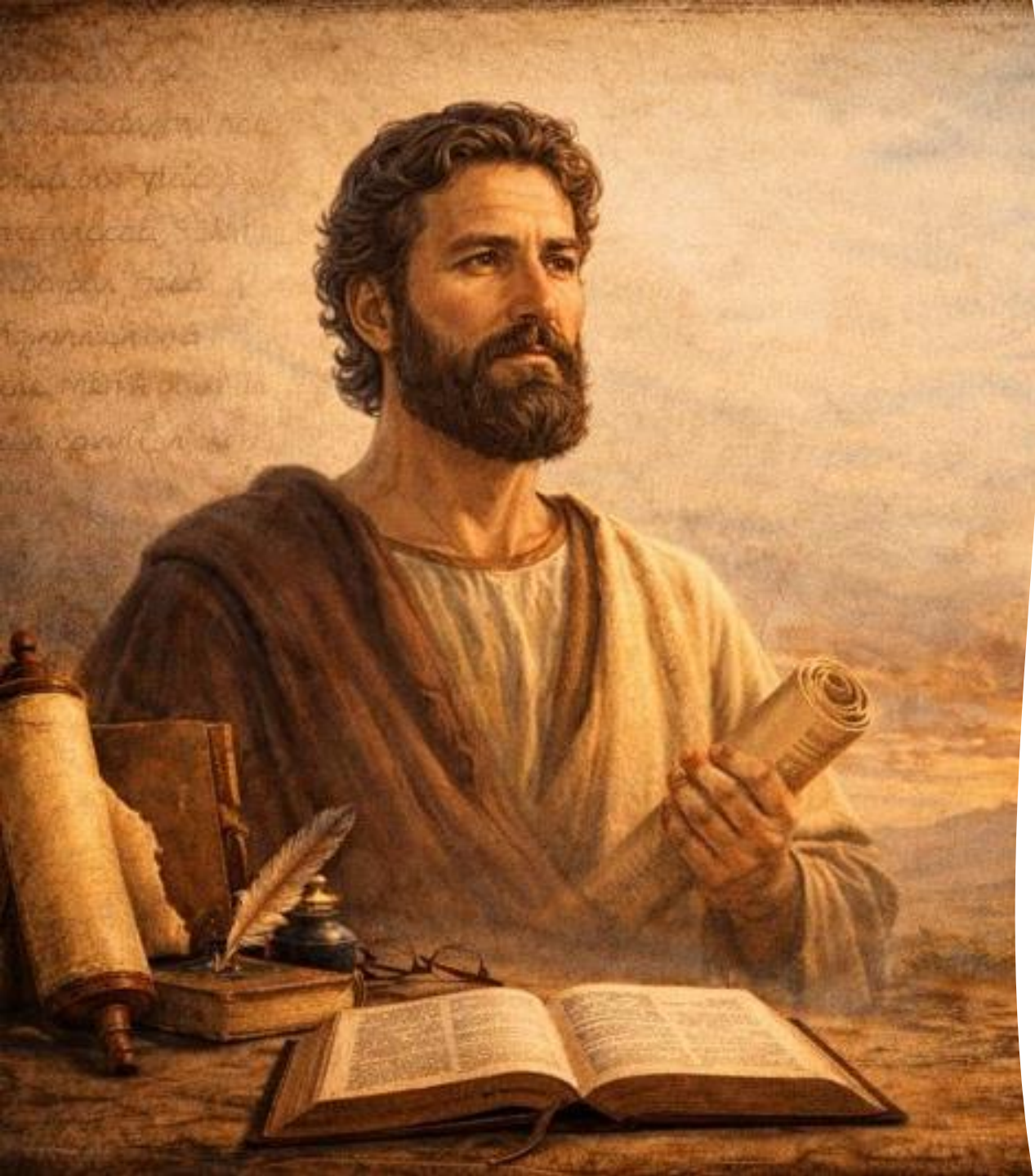
1. Why the study?
2. Authorship
3. Who were the Galatians?
4. What was the problem(s) beings addressed?
5. Paul's 1st missionary journey
6. Why issues facing the Galatians matter to us today



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





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?

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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
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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)