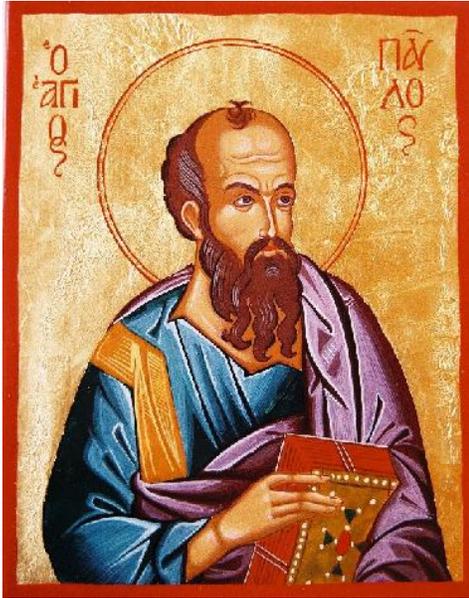




In this passionate letter to the churches at Galatia, Paul defends the truth of the gospel against those who sought to make adherence to Jewish law (particularly circumcision) a requirement for inclusion in the Christian church.



Icon of the Apostle Paul

**VOCABULARY** (Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms by Donald McKim).

- **Hellenism:** Greek culture and thought influential in the non-Greek world after Alexander the Great (356-323B.C.). It pervasively affected all life from language (Greek was the international means of communication), to architecture, to modes of thought. It facilitated the spread of Christianity.
- **Septuagint (LXX)** (*Latin septuaginta* "seventy"): The translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek completed approximately a century before Christ. Early Christian writers including Paul would have read from this text.
- **Judaizers:** Those in the early church who sought to impose the Jewish laws and rites on Christian believers.
- **Legalism:** A relationship or ethical system that is governed primarily by obedience to prescribed laws or rules.

## I. LETTER BEGINNING

### 1. *Sender (from whom)*

- Paul an apostle of God *and all those with me* (1:1-2a).

### 2. *Recipient (to whom)*

- Churches of Galatia (1:2b).

### 3. *Formulaic Greeting*

- Grace and peace from Jesus Christ, *who gave himself for our sins* (1:3-5).

### 4. *Thanksgiving/ Blessing*

- "I am amazed." (1:6-10)

## II. LETTER BODY

### 1. *Initial Exhortation*

- Paul's life and preaching (1:11–2:21)

### 2. *Thesis Statement*

- Paul's Gospel is from Jesus Christ (1:11-12); Justification through the faith of Christ Jesus (2:15-21).

### 3. *Theological Discussions*

- The Law & Faith; Abraham; Hagar vs. Sarah (3:1–5:12)

### 4. *Ethical Admonitions*

- Lots of warnings; bear others' burdens (5:13–6:10)

## III. LETTER CONCLUSION

### 1. *Practical Matters (N/A)*

### 2. *Individual Greetings (N/A)*

### 3. *Personal Postscript*

- More warnings- circumcision & the cross (6:11-17)

### 4. *Prayer or Doxology*

- Grace of Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen (6:18).