

Galatia: a regional name and a gospel dispute

Where were the churches addressed in Galatians?

The destination of Galatians is debated because Galatia can refer to a northern ethnic region or a wider Roman province. The choice affects proposed dates and journey connections. The letter's central argument concerns belonging to Christ, not solving a map puzzle.

Two geographical proposals

The South Galatian proposal connects the recipients with churches in the southern part of the Roman province, including communities visited in Acts 13–14. The North Galatian proposal locates them farther north among the Galatians more narrowly understood. The project's chronology labels its adopted reconstruction. Neither view permits a precise recipient address or travel line where the sources offer only a regional description.

Biblical references: Acts 13:14-52 · Acts 14:1-23 · Acts 16:6 · Galatians 1:2

Sources: acts, letters, chronology

Why dates are connected

The destination question interacts with whether the Jerusalem visit in Galatians 2 corresponds to Acts 11 or Acts 15 and with the placement of the Antioch confrontation. These are related judgments, not independently fixed dates that prove one another. A comparison should show its assumptions. Paul's own autobiographical sequence remains primary evidence even when readers disagree over its alignment with Acts.

Biblical references: Galatians 1:15-24 · Galatians 2:1-14 · Acts 11:27-30 · Acts 15:1-35

Sources: letters, acts, chronology

Freedom that becomes love

Paul opposes making circumcision necessary for Gentile inclusion and insists on the sufficiency of Christ. He also rejects using freedom as an excuse for destructive behavior. The Spirit's fruit, bearing burdens, and doing good give freedom a communal shape. The disputed destination need not prevent

understanding that argument, and Jewish practice should not be caricatured as the universal opposite of grace.

Biblical references: Galatians 3:1-29 · Galatians 5:1-26 · Galatians 6:1-10

Sources: letters

Sources

- [acts] Acts 7–28; passage references are supplied in each section. <https://ebible.org/web/ACT.htm>
- [letters] Romans through Philemon; passage references are supplied in each section. <https://ebible.org/web/>
- [chronology] Pauline Letters chronology: Acts, the letters, dated external anchors, and explicitly qualified reconstructions. <https://paulineletters.com/explore/timeline>

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