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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church  
PT: Ron Adema  
Series: Book of Galatians

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## **SALUTATION TO GALATIANS**

We begin a new study of the Book of Galatians on Sunday. There are six chapters and 149 verses in the book. During the month of February, we will study chapter one.

After an in-depth study of the Book of Galatians, Martin Luther remarked, "The Epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. I have betrothed myself to it. It is my wife." (Renaissance of NT, vol.13)

"Luther's commentary on Galatians was the manifesto of the Protestant Reformation and its message the major theme of Reformation preaching." (Howard Vos)

"It was the rediscovery of the basic message of Galatians that brought about the Reformation. Galatians is often referred to as Luther's book because Martin Luther relied so strongly on this letter in his writings and argument against prevailing theology of his day." (Introduction to Galatians, NIV Study Bible)

Like Paul, Luther's introduction to grace apart from works changed his life and theology and ministry (Gal.2:26, 21).

It is my prayer that the study of Book of Galatians will have the same impact upon the lives and theology and ministry of DSBC.

<p><b>This lesson will study five aspects of Paul's Salutation to the Galatians.</b></p>
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### **1. Galatians was a circular letter written by Paul about 49-50 AD to be read to the churches of Southern Galatia (Gal.1:2).**

It was written after returning to the home church of Antioch of Syria (Acts 14:26-28).

These churches were planted during the first missionary evangelism trip of Paul and Barnabas

(Acts 13-14) Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 14:6, 21; 16:1-2).

### **2. It has an unusual Pauline salutation.**

He began by defending his apostleship before giving the salutation (Gal.1:1).

Actually the salutation was broken-up by the defense of his apostleship and by the defense of his grace gospel (Acts 15:9-11).

(Gal.1:1)	Defense of apostleship
(Gal.1:2-3)	Salutation
(Gal.1:4)	Defense of grace gospel
(Gal.1:5)	Salutation

For comparison read Paul's salutation in 1 -2 Thessalonians, it was written in similar time frame.

**3. It is the only Pauline Epistle in which he does not express praise of any accomplishment.**

Just the opposite, he chides them as “foolish and bewitched.” (Gal.3:1-4).

**Paul warned them,**

(Gal.4:1) “I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.”

(Gal.4:16) “Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?”

When John was warning the seven churches of Asia Minor, he offered praise when chiding (Rev.2-3).

Paul made several leadership mistakes on his 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Trip that he later corrected in his ministry. (Acts 13:13; 15:36-39; 2 Tim.4:11).

**4. Paul apostleship and his grace message were already under assault by legalistic believers called Judaizers.**

Judaizers were trying to build the Christian church on the Old Covenant Law rather than New Covenant Grace (Heb.9:15) (1 Tim.2:5-7).

Paul was being attacked for his grace GOSPEL that treated all believers equally in Christ whether Jew or Gentile, free or slave, male or female (Gal.3:26-29; 1 Cor.12:13; 2 Cor.5:17).

“The Judaizers argued that Paul was not an authentic apostle and that out of a desire to make the message more appealing to Gentiles he had removed from the gospel certain legal requirements.” (NIVB, Introduction to Galatians)

Paul believed that **all mankind** were sinners because of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS); and could be saved only from it by gospel of grace salvation (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22; 1 Tim.1:15; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(1 John 2:2) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (Titus 2:11)

**5. The enemy of Paul’s teaching of grace came from within the church. They were the Judaizers from the Jerusalem church (Gal.2:13-16). Today we call them legalists.**

Judaizers embraced the teaching of the first century Pharisees and the ex-biblical teachings of Tradition of the Elders (Matt.15:1-9) [Jesus].

Paul came out of this theology and understood its dangers (Gal.1:13-14; Phil.3:2-9).

Early in the Book of Acts, Peter believed this group **until** the baptism of Holy Spirit by Jesus of Gentiles (Act 10-11; 11:15-18).

**Judaizers taught that Gentile believers had to become Jews before their salvation could be completed.**

The Jerusalem Church Conference

(Acts 15:1) “And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, ‘unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’”