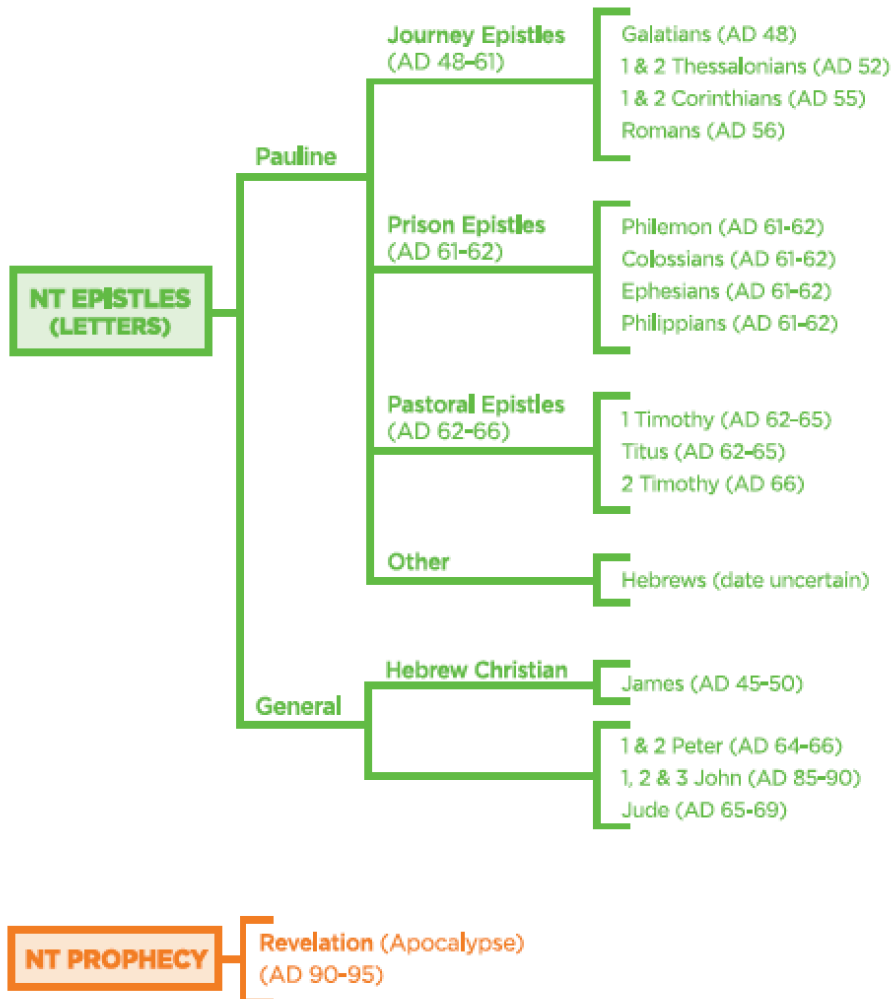


**Bible Survey, part 7 – The New Testament**  
**The Epistles (Galatians, part 1)**  
**“Enjoying Our Freedom in Christ”**

## OUTLINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES



# HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Birth of Paul   | around the time of Christ's birth |
| Conversion of Paul  | AD 33                             |
| First missionary journey  | AD 47-48                          |
| <b>Galatians</b> written after first journey                            | AD 48                             |
| Apostolic Council at Jerusalem  | AD 49                             |
| Second missionary journey   | AD 49-52                          |
| <b>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</b> written during second journey            | AD 52                             |
| Third missionary journey  | AD 52-56                          |
| <b>1 &amp; 2 Corinthians</b> written during third journey               | AD 55                             |
| <b>Romans</b> written during third journey                              | AD 56                             |
| Arrest in Jerusalem   | AD 56                             |
| Journey to Rome   | AD 60-61                          |
| In Rome awaiting trial, under guard                                     | AD 61-62                          |
| <b>Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians</b> written from prison | AD 61-62                          |
| Paul released, revisits churches, resumes evangelistic ministry         | AD 62-66                          |
| <b>1 Timothy, Titus</b> written   | AD 62-65                          |
| Paul arrested, imprisoned at Rome                                       | AD 66                             |
| <b>2 Timothy</b> written from Rome                                      | AD 66                             |
| Paul executed   | AD 66                             |



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[I have heard] "... there are some who are disturbing you, wanting to distort the Gospel of Christ . . . As we said before, so I say again, if anyone preaches to you a Gospel contrary to what you received from us, let him be accursed [Greek – "anathema"].” Galatians 1:7, 9

Chronologically, the letter to the Galatians was Paul’s first letter – dated 48 A.D.

**Judaizers’ plan of salvation** = “Jesus’ blood + human works.”

Paul was **incensed** by this false teaching because it put people **back into** a “plan of salvation based on **human works**.”

**Every** plan of salvation in the world (except the true biblical plan of salvation) is based on **human works** of one kind or another.”

“What exactly is the problem with a plan of salvation based on human works?”

**Problem #1** – Because we are all sinners, none of us can make such a plan of salvation work.

“For God’s Law is spiritual but I am fleshly, a slave to sin . . . For I agree that the Law is good . . . And I have the desire to **do** what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” Romans 7:14, 16, 18

Because of our intrinsic sin nature, we can all **endorse** God’s Laws in our hearts – but **none of us** can carry them out.

**Problem #2** – Therefore, a human works plan of salvation curses and condemns all who try it.

“For **ALL** those who rely on observing the Law [human works plan of salvation] are under a **curse**, for it is written [Old Testament]: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not obey **ALL THINGS** written in the Law, to perform them.’” Galatians 3:10

“For whoever keeps the whole Law, and yet stumbles at just one point, is guilty of breaking it all.” James 2:10

Getting to heaven by human works is an “all or nothing deal.”

In God’s holy sight, the first time we break the rules we’re cooked!

“For by trying to observe the Law, **no one** shall ever be justified in God’s sight . . .” Romans 3:20

**Problem #3** – This plan of salvation hold people in hopeless bondage.

If you are trying to work your way to heaven – how do you know when you’ve worked **enough**?”

“These false teachers want to bring us back into bondage.” Galatians 2:4

**Problem #1** – Because as sinners – we can’t make it work

**Problem #2** – Because this plan curses everyone who tries it

**Problem #3** – Because this plan holds people in hopeless bondage

“... preach **another Jesus** whom we have not preached ... and a **different** Gospel ...” 2 Corinthians 11:4

**First** – “My Gospel (faith in Jesus’ blood plus no human works) is the right Gospel.”

“For I would have you know, brethren, that the Gospel I preached among you was not according to man ... for I received it by a direct revelation from Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:11, 12b

“For when God ... was pleased to reveal His Son in me [on the road to Damascus – Acts 9], that I might preach Him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went to Arabia ... for three years ...”  
Galatians 1:15-18

“Then ... I went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus [Gentile believer] along also ... and I submitted to them [i.e., Peter and the Apostles] the Gospel that I preach among the Gentiles.”  
Galatians 2:1-2a

“But not even Titus who was with me, though he was a Gentile, was compelled [i.e., by the Apostles] to be circumcised ...” Galatians 2:3

Paul told Titus that he was saved by faith in Jesus’ blood plus no human works – and the Apostles obviously agreed with the Gospel Paul was preaching – or they would have made Titus get circumcised.

**Paul:** “The Gospel I preached to you is the **right one** because (1) it was **given** to me **by Jesus personally**, and (2) it was **certified** by the rest of the Apostles.”

**Paul:** “Therefore, ipso facto, the gospel these Judaizers are preaching to you is the **wrong** gospel!”

**Second** – “The Gospel I preach redeems people from the curse of the Law.” [human works plan of salvation]

“For **ALL** who are under the Law are under a **curse**, for it’s written [Old Testament]: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not obey **ALL THINGS** written in the Law, to perform them.’” Galatians 3:10

“But Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us [on the cross] ... so that we might be saved **BY FAITH** ...” Galatians 3:13-14

**Third** – “Since Jesus redeemed us God can adopt us.”

“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman ... In order that He might **redeem** those under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5

“For through faith in Jesus Christ, you are all sons/daughters of God.” Galatians 3:26

**Fourth** – “As God’s adopted children in Christ, we are now **FREE** from the **BONDAGE** of human performance in our relationship with God.”

“It is for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm [against the Judaizers] and do not let yourself be subjected again to a yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

“**Yoke of bondage**” = a relationship with God based on your human performance

“For in Christ, we have received the adoption of sons/daughters.” Galatians 4:5

“For in Christ we are no longer under Law, but under grace.” Romans 6:14

Once we **come to faith** in Christ, God’s love isn’t based on **our performance**. As God’s **adopted children in Christ**, we **HAVE** God’s love and favor – and we can never lose it!

**First** – “My Gospel is the right Gospel.”

**Second** – “My Gospel **redeems people** from the curse of the Law.”

**Third** – “Jesus **redeemed** us so God could **adopt** us.”

**Fourth** – “As God’s adopted children, we are **FREE** from the bondage of human performance in our relationship with God.

**Question:** “Why did God give us the Law?”

**Answer:** “To help us realize our need for Christ.”

“Why the Law then? It was added for the sake of defining sin . . .” Galatians 3:19

“I would never have realized what my sin was except for the Law.” Romans 7:7a

“For I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, ‘Thou shalt not covet.’” Romans 7:7b

The **purpose of the Law** was to give us **God’s perfect standard of holiness**.

- So we could **compare** our lives to it
- So we could **understand** how short we fall
- So we could **realize** how utterly unable we are to save **ourselves**
- So we could **turn to Jesus** to save us

“Therefore, the Law was our tutor, to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:24

“But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor! Galatians 3:25

As believers in Jesus, the Law has done its job for us – and we are free of it!

## **SO WHAT?**

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, stand firm in that freedom . . .” Galatians 5:1

As followers of Christ, I want to call you to the **freedom that belongs to you** as an “**adopted child of God**.”

God won’t love you one bit less if you do these things.

God won’t love you one bit more if you don’t do these things.

## **Galatians 5:13**

**For you were called to freedom, brethren;  
only do not turn your freedom into  
an opportunity for the flesh, but  
through love serve one another.**