



Introduction to Galatians (Part 3)

0614Ga1.1a2b(3)

Galatians 1:1a,2b



1 Paul, an apostle—neither sent from men, nor the agency of man—but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead, **2** and all

the brethren with me, to the churches of Galatia:

– Galatians 1:1-2, translated by T. Bartolucci

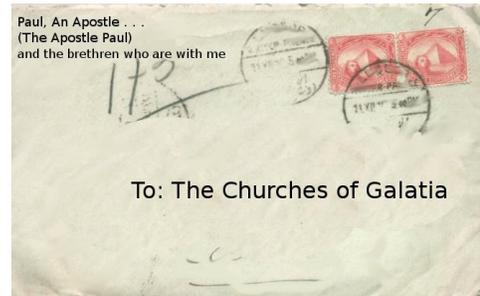
I. The Return Address (v. 1)

II. The Address Proper (v. 2)

A. Who Were the Recipients of the Letter?

1. The origin and expansion of Galatia

Celtic tribes (Gauls / Galatians) fought eastward through Europe (278-277 BC) and settled in t/north central plateau, an area they designated Galatia (“The Country of the Gauls”). In the 1st c. they supported the Roman General Pompey in his battle against Mithradates V. They were rewarded afterward with an expansion of their territory. Three decades later (approx. 31 BC), following the Battle of Actium, Octavian Augustus expanded Galatia further south into regions that had never been ethnically Galatian (southern Galatia). He subsequently reorganized the region as a Roman province under the authority of a Roman governor.



2. Did Paul write to churches in Northern Galatia (Ethnic) or Southern Galatia (Provincial)?

a. Northern Galatia = The standard view from the Church Fathers to the Reformers

b. Southern Galatia = Popularized by Sir William Ramsey in the 19th c. - the majority view today

3. Why the south?

- (1) No record of churches being established in the northern Galatian cities.
- (2) There is a record of CH's established in the southern Galatian cities (Acts 13–14).
- (3) There is no other way to singularly designate the cities in the southern region than to refer to them as “Galatians.”
- (4) Paul commonly used provincial titles to refer to the geographic location of churches he founded (Eg. Achaia; Asia; Macedonia).
- (5) The 3 other occurrences of ‘Galatia’ in the NT (2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Pet. 1:1; and 1 Cor. 16:1) almost certainly refer to the Roman province.

- (6) Three times Paul mentions Barnabas (vv. 2:1, 9, 13) who was His traveling companion during the 1st Missionary Journey. The way his name comes up in the letter seems to assume that the Galatian Christians knew him.
- (7) Southern Galatia was much more accessible than the northern region.
- (8) No mention is made of the decision of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 – significant in light of the *sitz im liben* (German for "setting in life").

III. The Post-Mark Date

A. When and Where was the Letter Written?

IV. The Stamp

A. Are there Issues Pertaining to Authenticity and Canonicity?

V. The Text of the Letter

A. What is the Style and Structure of the Letter

VI. The Contents of the Letter

A. What Is the Letter About and Why was it Written? (*Acts 15 and the Judaizers*)

Note the two general areas circled in yellow. The top (northern) region is ethnic Galatia, the land of the Gauls. The lower (southern) region is provincial Galatia, an area colonized by Rome. The southern area was visited by Paul on his first missionary journey and these cities are the likely recipients of the letter to the Galatians.

