

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD
GALATIANS

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Introduction:

Where in the world are we?

Letter to the Galatians:

Believed to have been written from Antioch or Ephesus somewhere between 48-57 AD
Galatians believed to be Paul's earliest letter

Defining Issues: Justification by faith (Galatians 2: 16)

Relationship Matters (Behavior towards people emerges from relationship with them; friends, parents, spouses, lovers do or do not do certain things to each other based upon their relationship)

Not works-righteousness, obedience to the law

Not adherence to long standing traditions, circumcision (Galatians 5: 3)

Not spiritual gifts

Not cosmetics or clothes but character; not hair but heart

Not culture but change; not narrowness but newness

Not vocabulary but vision

Apostolic authority

Old definitions and new realities (Acts 1: 21-22)

- Walked with the Lord since the beginning
- Witness of the resurrection

Paul as a new genre of apostle (I Corinthians 15: 9-10; Galatians 1: 11-24)

- The reasoning of Paul and the mother of Forrest Gump regarding meaning of stupid
- Women
- Persons with non-traditional backgrounds (Paul; woman at the well)
- The old past and the new and continuing work of grace

Gender, ethnic, racial and social distinctions (Galatians 3:28)

- Church is the place where they are confronted and worked through
- Historic prejudices must not be tolerated in church; whenever they are tolerated the church ceases to be the church
- The relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is the defining issue