

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS CLASS STUDY

SLIDE SHOW

Let's look carefully at this book and what it was that prompted Paul to write it and why he is so angry. We have described some of the tenants of the false gospel in our last session that are still taught in our churches today. But because so many have been entrenched in much of it even in our time, it will take work to understand the true gospel allowing it to replace the error.

Let's set the scene.

I. The geographical setting.

Galatia was a province in what is now South Central Turkey, and the area the Apostle Paul traveled through on three of his missionary journeys. These journeys are recorded in the Book of Acts, chapters 13-14, 15-18 and 18-21 respectively. The word Galatia comes from the term given to the Gauls/Celts. These ancient European peoples had migrated to this area several hundred years before Christ and settled in what we know as Galatia, named after them. They accommodated themselves to the Greek written script for practical reasons but spoke a broken Gallic/Greek. Paul and his team did not understand their language when confronted by them. Galatia became a hostile and dangerous area for strangers. But Paul's opposition was not from these people, quite the contrary, but from Jews who not only objected to his message but attempted to kill him on his first missionary journey. Acts records these events.

Let's get a little view of this in a slide show. It was this journey that set the stage for the events to come and ultimately the letter we have before us today. Turn to a map of Paul's journey if you have one in the back of your Bible.

At Antioch of Syria, Paul's home church - Acts 13:1-4:

1: Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2: While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' 3: Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. 4: So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus."

Slides:

1. [Map of first journey specifically the location of Antioch of Syria, Paul's home church.](#)
2. [Modern Antioch of Syria.](#)
3. [Ancient Antioch of Syria – city plan.](#)
4. [Antioch of Syria – Aerial with ancient city outlined.](#)

From Cyprus to the mainland, Perga in Pamphilia - Acts 13:13:

13: "Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem."

Slides:

5. [Perga – City gate](#)
6. [Perga colonnade](#)
7. [Perga Roman ruins](#)
8. [Perga Roman ruins](#)
9. [Perga – public baths](#)
10. [Perga – public baths](#)
11. [Perga – Hippodrome and theatre](#)
12. [Perga – looking north toward Antioch of Pisidia](#)

From Perga to Antioch of Pisidia, the sermon in the synagogue - Acts 13: 14-52

14: But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 15: After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." 16: Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: 17: "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. 18: "For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. 19: "When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance--*all of which took* about four hundred and fifty years. 20: "After these things He gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet. 21: "Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22: "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' 23: "From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, 24: after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25: "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not *He*. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' 26: "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. 27: "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*. 28: "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed. 29: "When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30: "But God raised Him from the dead; 31: and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. 32: "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, 33: that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' 34: "*As for the fact* that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY *and SURE blessings* OF DAVID.' 35: "Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' 36: "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; 37: but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. 38: "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39: and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. 40: "Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon *you*:"

41: 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'

Slides:

- 13: [Antioch of Pisidia, west Gate, remains of triumphal arch.](#)
14. [Antioch of Pisidia, Roman cardo.](#)¹
15. [Antioch of Pisidia, Temple of Augustus.](#)
16. [Antioch of Pisidia, Hellenistic city walls.](#)
17. [Antioch of Pisidia, Church of Saint Peter.](#)
18. [Antioch of Pisidia, arched aquaduct.](#)
19. [Antioch of Pisidia, theatre.](#)

Act 42: "As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. 43: Now when *the meeting of* the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God. 44: The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45: But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. 46: Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47: "For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'" 48: When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49: And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. 50: But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51: But they shook off the dust of their feet *in protest* against them and went to Iconium. 52: And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

From Antioch of Pisidia to Iconium - ACTS 14:1-7

1: "In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. 2: But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. 3: Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. 4: But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5: And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, 6: they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; 7: and there they continued to preach the gospel."

Slides:

[20: Modern "Konya" \(Iconium\).](#) An ancient tel at Iconium does not exist and has been built upon for centuries. Konya is an important city of central Turkey, quite modern and hosts the finest university in Turkey. The population is over a million people. More photographs can be found on line.

¹ The cardo was a straight north-south oriented street in Roman cities, military camps, and colonies. The cardo, an integral component of city planning, bisecting the city, was lined with shops and vendors, and served as a hub of economic life.

From Iconium to Lystra - ACTS 14:8-20

8: "At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9: This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10: said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and *began* to walk. 11: When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." 12: And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13: The priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14: But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out 15: and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. 16: "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; 17: and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." 18: *Even* saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them. 19: But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20: But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe."

Slides:

- 21: [Lystra – The Tel of Lystra.](#)
- 22. [Lystra – The Tel of Lystra from the East.](#)
- 23. [Lystra – View from the top of the Tel.](#)

From Lystra to Derbe and back - ACTS 14:21-25.

21: "After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22: strengthening the souls of the disciples, ncouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.' 23: When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. 24: They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. 25: When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia."

Slides:

- 24. [Derbe – Tel of Derbe from the East.](#)
- 25. [Derbe – Mud house built on ruins.](#)
- 26. [Attalia \(modern Antalya\) – Port \(This port was in use in Paul's day\)](#)
- 27. [Attalia - Port](#)
- 28. [Taurus Mountains from Attalia.](#) This range extends along the Southern edge of Turkey. Paul would have crossed this range to get to Antioch of Pisidia. The renge extends into Eastern Turkey and angles North comprising four mountain ranges. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers find their headwaters in these ranges.

From Attalia to Antioch of Syria - Acts 14:26-28

26: “From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27: When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28: And they spent a long time with the disciples.”

Other notable events:

After preaching at Derbe, Paul, Barnabas and their companions returned back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. It was in Lystra, where Paul was stoned that a young man lived whose name was Timothy. He lived there with his mother Eunice who became a believer at Paul’s first trip through the city. Timothy’s grandmother, Lois, also had become a believer and though Timothy may not have come to Christ during Paul’s first visits to the city, we are told that both his mother and grandmother taught him the scriptures. He was definitely a believer when Paul came through the city years later on his second missionary journey.

Paul paid a considerable price to bring the Gospel to these people. His investment in them was of blood, pain, suffering and possibly even death and resuscitation. He suffered lifelong physical impairments from his first missionary journey. He would not let imposters, false teachers, or false apostles destroy what he had paid such a dear price to build. After Paul and his company left Galatia they returned to Antioch. Paul and Luke will both tell us what happened then. Your homework is to read all of Acts 13:1-15:2. Use a map.

Let me just preview your reading by saying that it wasn’t long after the Galatian missionary journey that those teaching the false gospel began to push the new believers toward confusion and distress in that region. In Antioch, the issue became quite tense as Jewish men came from Jerusalem at the behest of James and visited the growing congregation at Antioch. Peter, who had come earlier became the catalyst of a firestorm after these men arrived and the heated argument between him and Paul is recorded by Paul in Galatians two.

We will cover this over the next few lessons. The controversy is vitally important as it sets the stage for a summit meeting wherein then most important decision ever made in the furtherance of the gospel and the altering of history is made by one heroic man.

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



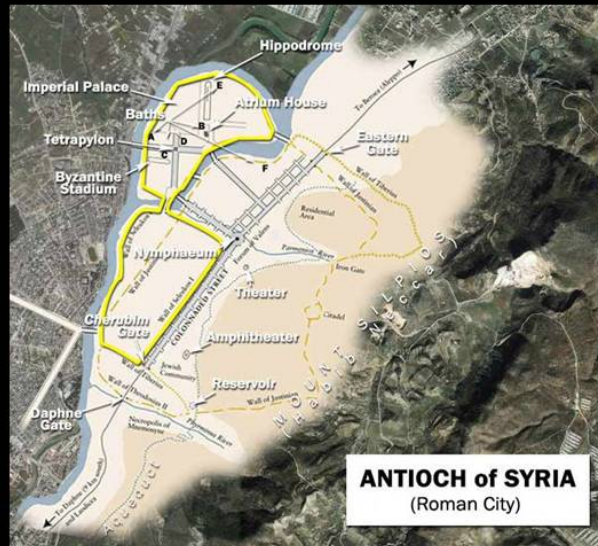
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ANTIOCH OF SYRIA



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ANTIOCH OF SYRIA – ANCIENT CITY PLAN



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ANTIOCH OF SYRIA – AERIAL WITH ANCIENT CITY AREA OUTLINED



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PERGA – CITY GATE



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PERGA - COLONNADE



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PERGA – LOOKING NORTH



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PISIDIAN ANTIOCH – WEST GATE REMAINS OF TRIUMPHAL ARCH



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ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA – ROMAN CARDO



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PISIDIAN ANTIOCH – TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS



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PISIDIAN ANTIOCH – HELLENISTIC CITY WALLS



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PISIDIAN ANTIOCH - CHURCH OF SAINT PETER



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PISIDIAN ANTIOCH ARCHED AQUADUCT



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ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA - THEATRE



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MODERN DAY "KOYNA" - ANCIENT ICONIUM



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THE TEL OF LYSTRA



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LYSTRA FROM THE EAST



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LYSTRA FROM TOP OF TEL



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THE TEL OF DERBE FROM THE EAST



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Slide 25

HOUSE NEAR DERBE BUILT ON ANCIENT STONES. ADDITIONAL MUD WALLS AND THATCHED ROOF



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Slide 26

ATTALIA (ANTALYA) PORT



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ATTALIA (ANTALYA) PORT



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LOOKING NORTH TO TAURUS MOUNTAINS



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