

Lasting Significance of Galatians

The importance of _____

The definition of _____

Relationship of _____

Relevance of _____

Understanding of _____

Our goals

Understand _____

See _____

Consider _____

Paul's Galatians is, in fact, like a lion turned loose in the arena of Christians. It challenges, intimidates, encourages, and focuses our attention on what is really essential as little else can. How we deal with the issues it raises and the teachings it presents will in large measure determine how we think as Christians and how we live as Christ's own. - Richard Longenecker

Background information

Why do we care about background information (Date, recipients, historical situation, etc.):

Why does the date of Galatians matter?

It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

Galatians 6:12

ESV

Opponents

What were some characteristics of the teaching?

General Jewish Background

Who were the primary persecutors of Christians in the middle of the 1st Century?

Who were the other persecutors of Christians at the time?

Why would aligning closely in external form with Judaism would be beneficial for a 1st century Christian?

What did "zeal" look like for a 1st-century Jew?

Who were the models zealous Jews looked up to the most?

Specific beliefs held by "Judaizers"

When we read a letter like Galatians, we're seeing Paul's polemic argument against the false teachers, but what would their teaching have actually looked like to the Galatians?

What are some of the potential arguments and rationale they might have used?

The necessity of _____
Genesis 17; Jubilees 15

Circumcision as an _____

Circumcision as a _____
Gen 34:14-24; Exodus 12:48; Esther 8:17 LXX; Judith 14:10

Jewish tradition and interpretation of several OT scriptures connected circumcision with

The Galatians Prior Religious Background

What were some key aspects of the Galatians' pre-conversion religious background that may have made some of the false teaching especially appealing to them and help make sense of some characteristics of Paul's letter?

