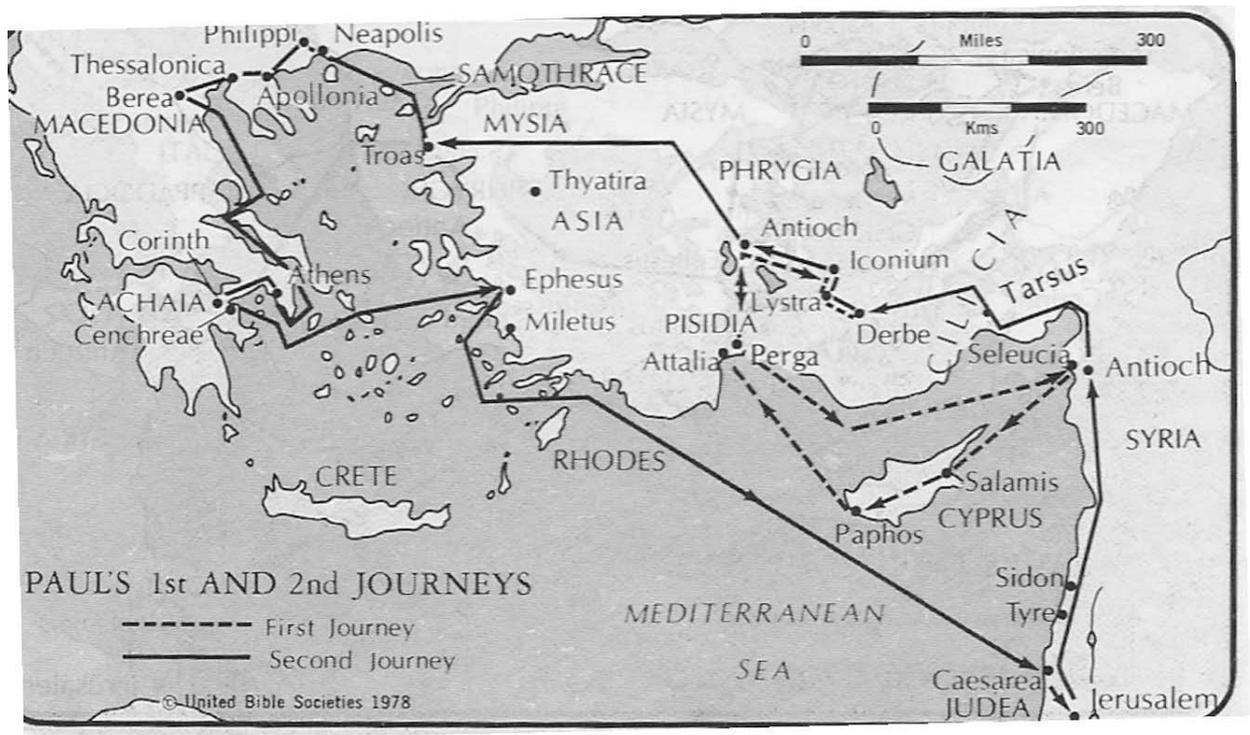


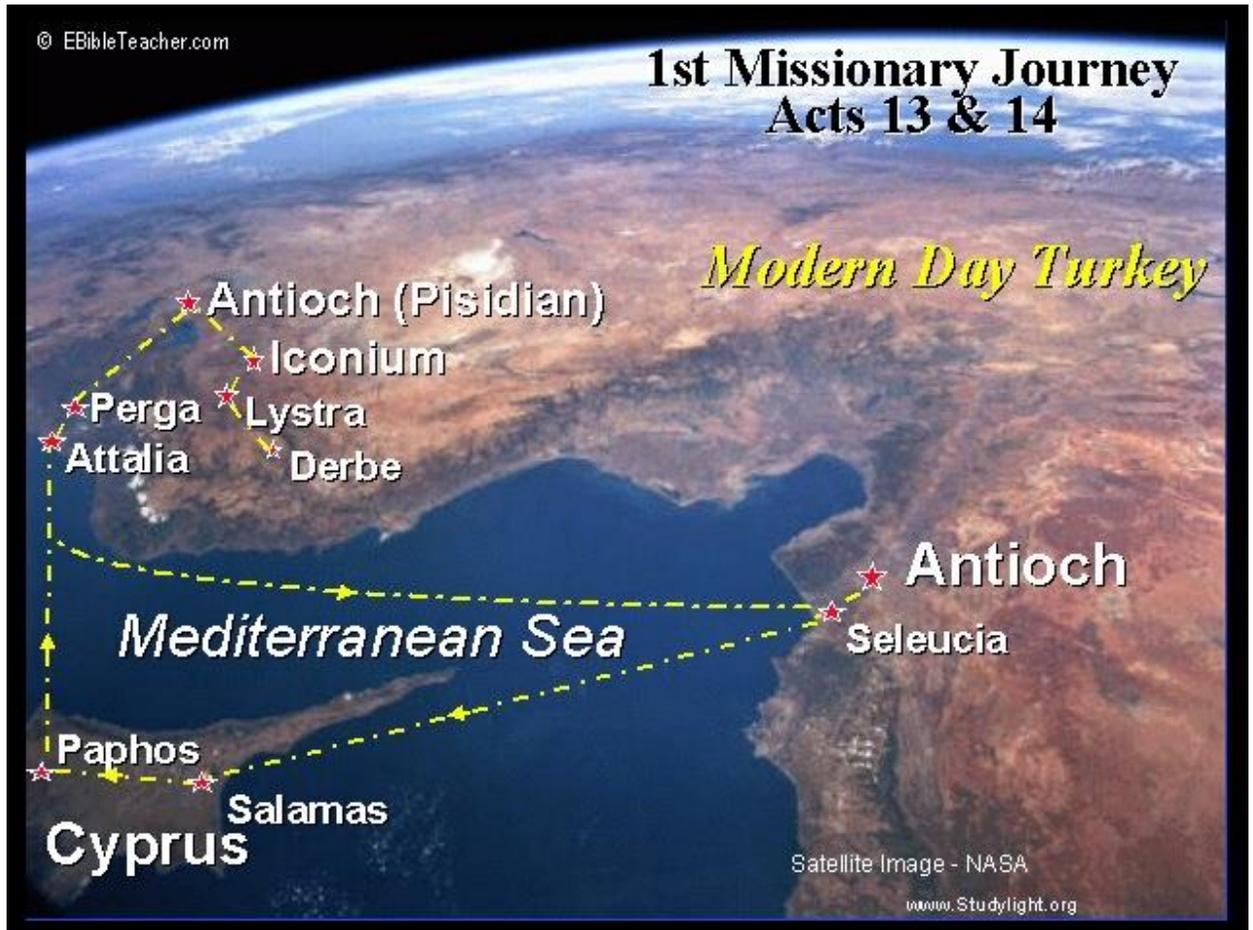
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Faith Bible Church
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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Study of the Bible-68 Galatians 1-6 – Maps and Reading of Galatians

Before we study Galatians, let's note the basic timeline and geography. While it was once believed that Galatians was written after Paul's 2nd missionary journey, and thus after Thessalonians, the scholarly consensus today is that Galatians was actually written after the 1st missionary journey and thus before Thessalonians. The reason for the switch of positions has to do with what "Galatia" refers to. If Galatia refers only to the northern territory of Asia Minor, then the letter was written after the establishment of churches on his 2nd missionary journey. However, if "Galatia" is both a geographical and political sense, it would include southern area of Galatia and thus would be written after 1st missionary trip in that area. Note Galatia and the two missionary journeys. The first trip included southern Galatia while the second trip was through the more northern area of Galatia and included Thessalonica. Note the geography of northern and southern Galatia in relation to the two missionary journeys on the following maps.



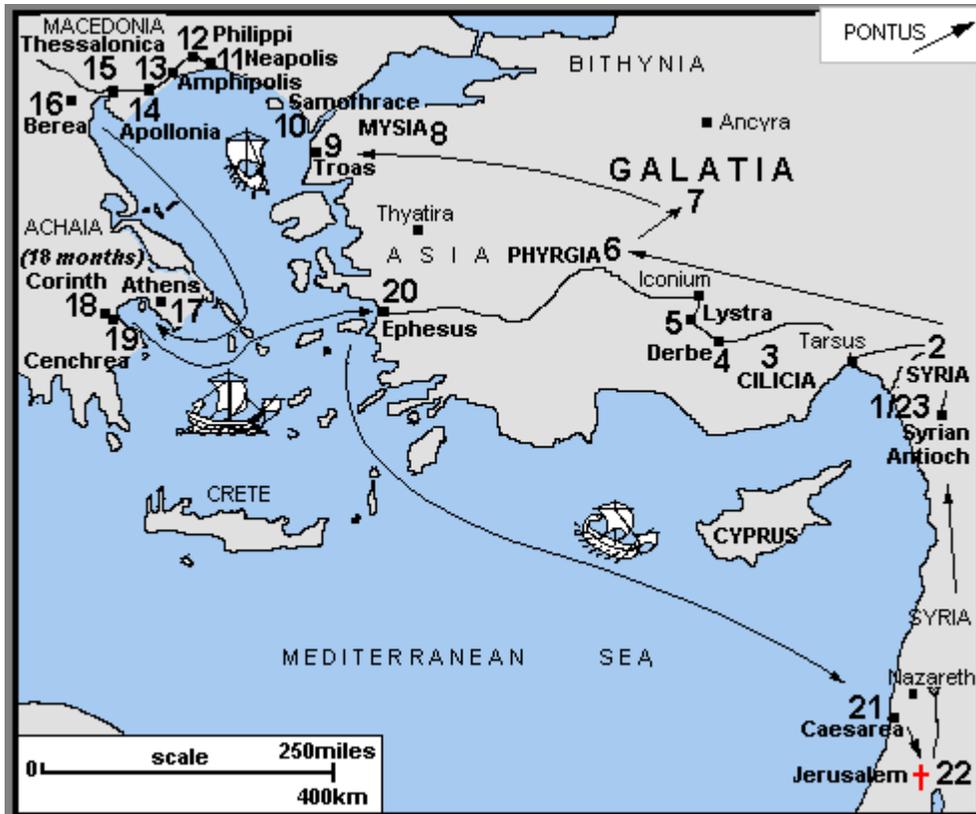
The area of South Galatia to which I believe “Galatians” refers:



Paul's 1st missionary journey (AD 46-48)



Paul's 2nd missionary journey (AD 49-52)



For more details on these missionary journeys, see
<https://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

Galatians is a marvelous Book of grace. The two greatest issues facing any person is salvation (entrance into a relationship with God through grace) and sanctification (fellowship with God through grace). Galatians provides great insights into both of these truths. Like Thessalonians, it exalts the Lord Jesus Christ. However, while Thessalonians exalts the Lord Jesus Christ in reference to His coming at the Rapture and Second Advent, Galatians exalts the salvific work of Jesus Christ: His work of salvation on the Cross. Galatians is a celebration of Christ's all-sufficient work on the cross for salvation.

The first thing you need to do is to spend significant time reading Galatians. The believer's personal reading of the Bible is a vital part of really getting Truth straight from God through His Word. You can never read the Word of God too much. By reading the Bible for yourself, you will protect yourself from false teachings and even from a false understanding of true teaching. You should never be totally dependent upon any man for your view of what the Bible says. Teachers are just one tool to help you understand the *Bible*. If you only listen to teachers, you will be pulled into a system that may make sense, but only because they have provided you with their framework that makes it make sense. Everything makes sense given a certain framework. The point is that the framework must be constructed by the Word of God itself. You need to develop your own framework of God and the spiritual life from the Word of God. Again, Pastors are here to help you understand the Word of God, from its basic framework to its deepest metaphysical truths, for yourself.

With that in mind, I would like for you to read the entire letter of Galatians in one setting (without any distractions, like TV). Don't get bogged down into the details or be disturbed if you do not understand it. While it is true that every believer should be able to read and understand this Book for himself (especially if he has been a believer for many years), don't worry about it if you can't. I am here to help you; by the time we are finished with our study, what seems confusing will be cleared up and seem rather simple. Right now I just want you to get a feel for the major themes and ideas of the Letter. I just read Galatians and it took me 16 minutes. In the next lesson, we will begin to unpack seven key passages that form a theme that runs through Galatians, passages which make striking affirmations about the death of Jesus Christ and the influence of His cross on others.

Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

*In 'Ehyeh,
Pastor Don Hargrove*