

5. Who was the author writing to, and where were the recipients of this letter?

In Galatians 1:2 Paul addresses the letter to “the churches of Galatia.”

- what is a “church” Not a building or institution. A church is a gathering of people ... people who have repented & put their faith in Jesus Christ as the only Saviour from sin.
- “churches” (plural) - notice that it was sent to more than one local gathering of believers. The letter would have been passed from one church to the next.

These were churches started during the first missionary journey of Paul & Barnabas, and located in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia - see Acts 13 & 14.

- “Galatia” - Galatia was a province of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). So these were Gentiles.
- In this letter to the Galatians, Paul takes them back to the original message which he preached to them because they were straying away from it under pressure from legalistic Jewish Christians.

e.g. **Galatians 1:8-9** “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

Galatians 1:11 “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.”

- The Galatian believers were in spiritual danger because the foundations of their faith were being attacked! In this epistle Paul shows his heart with deep emotion and strong feeling. He is very upset at legalism which was robbing these believers of their freedom & joy in Christ!
- In strong language, the apostle declares that not only is a sinner saved by grace through faith plus nothing, but the saved sinner lives by grace through faith.
- Grace is the way to life and the way of life for the Christian!