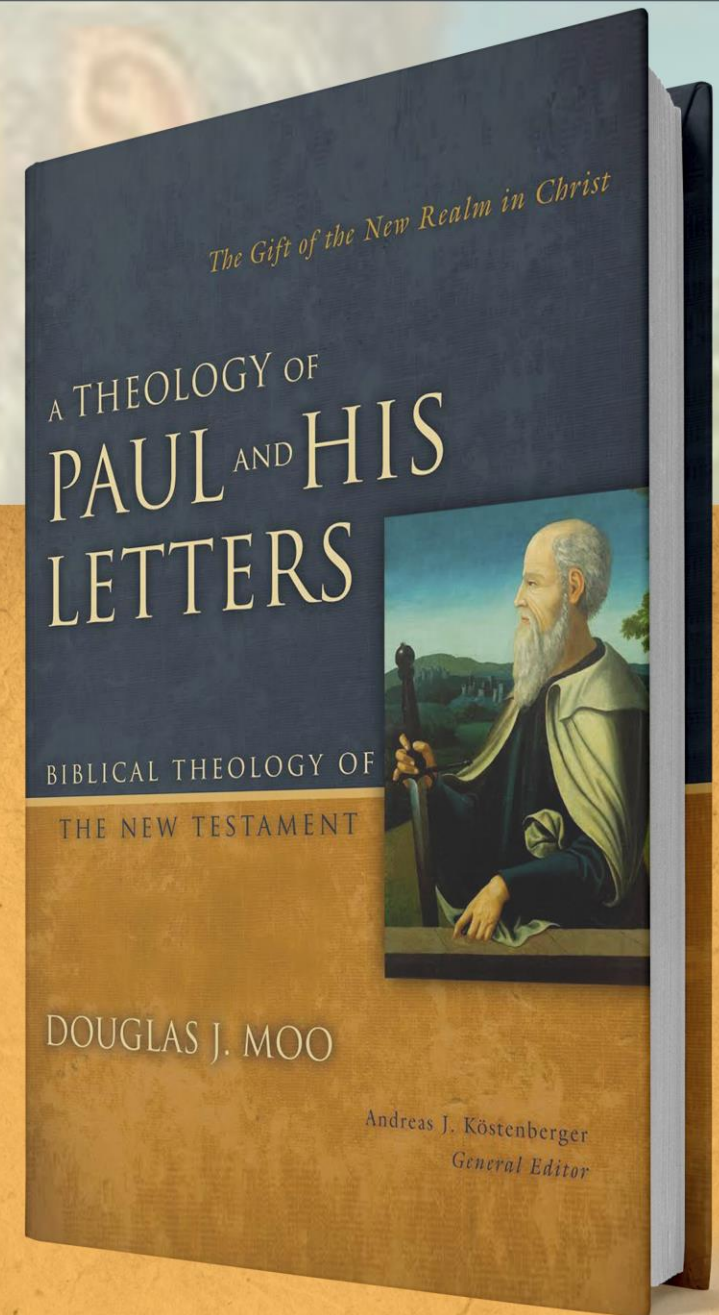


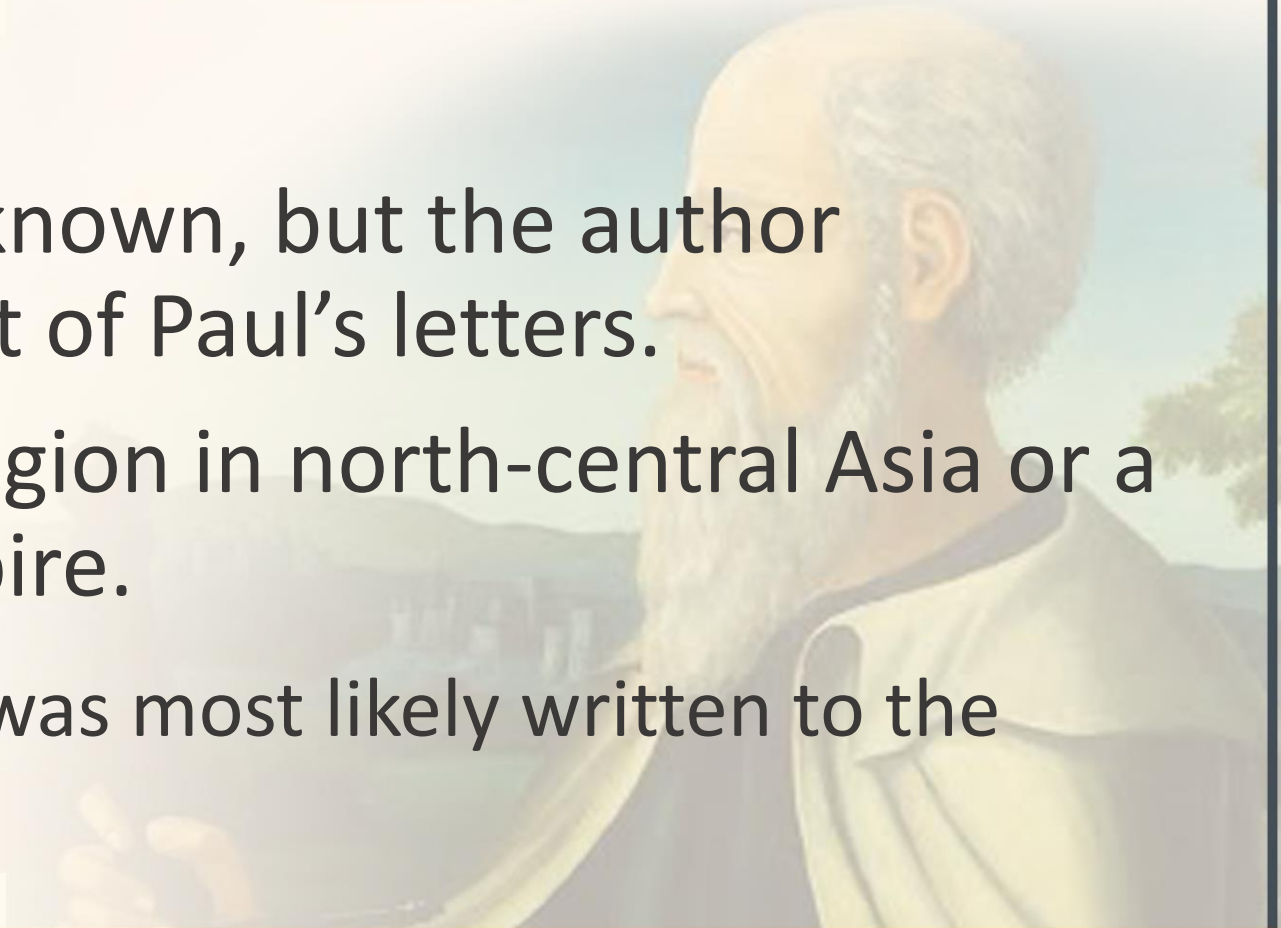
CHAPTER 4

Galatians



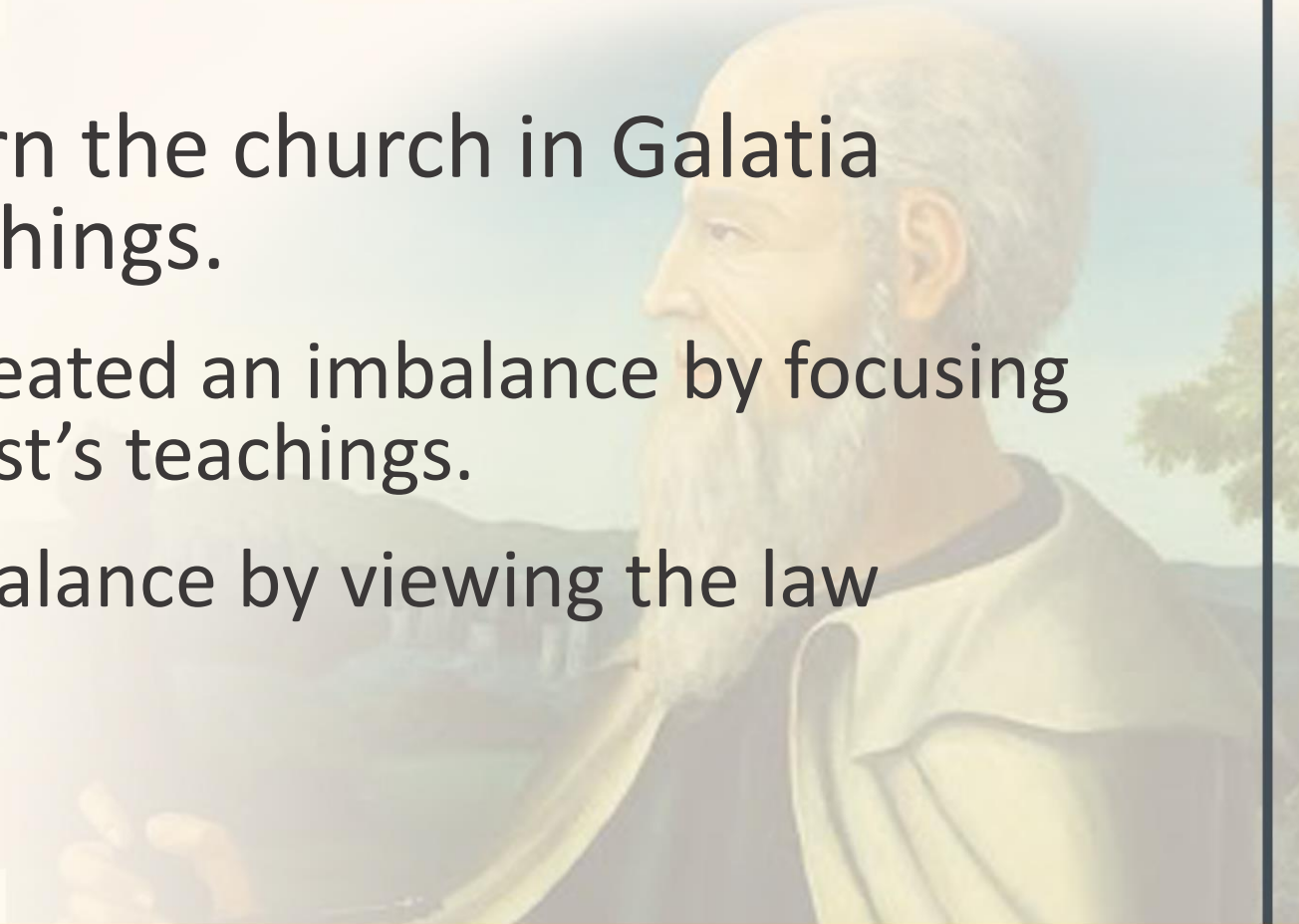
Locating the Letter

- The date of Galatians is unknown, but the author believed it to be the earliest of Paul's letters.
- "Galatia" could refer to a region in north-central Asia or a province in the Roman Empire.
 - The author believed that it was most likely written to the province of Galatia.

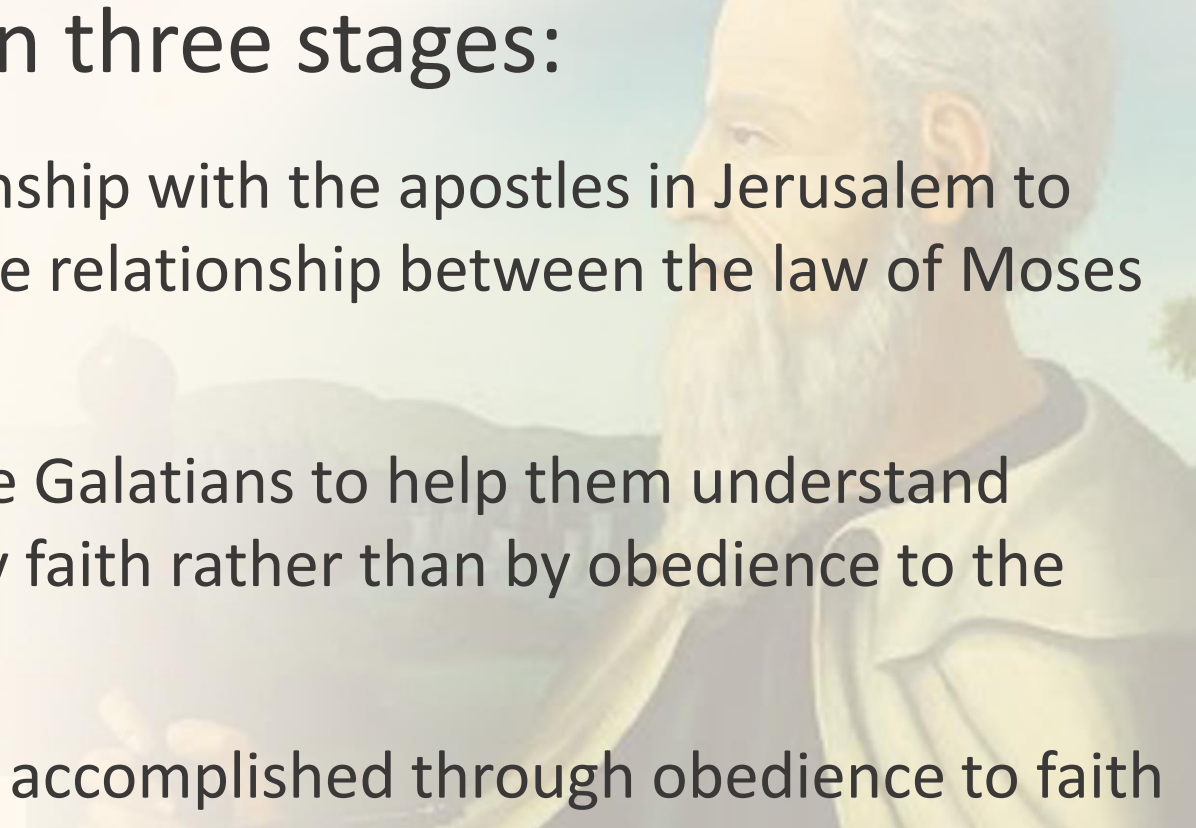


Isolating the Issues

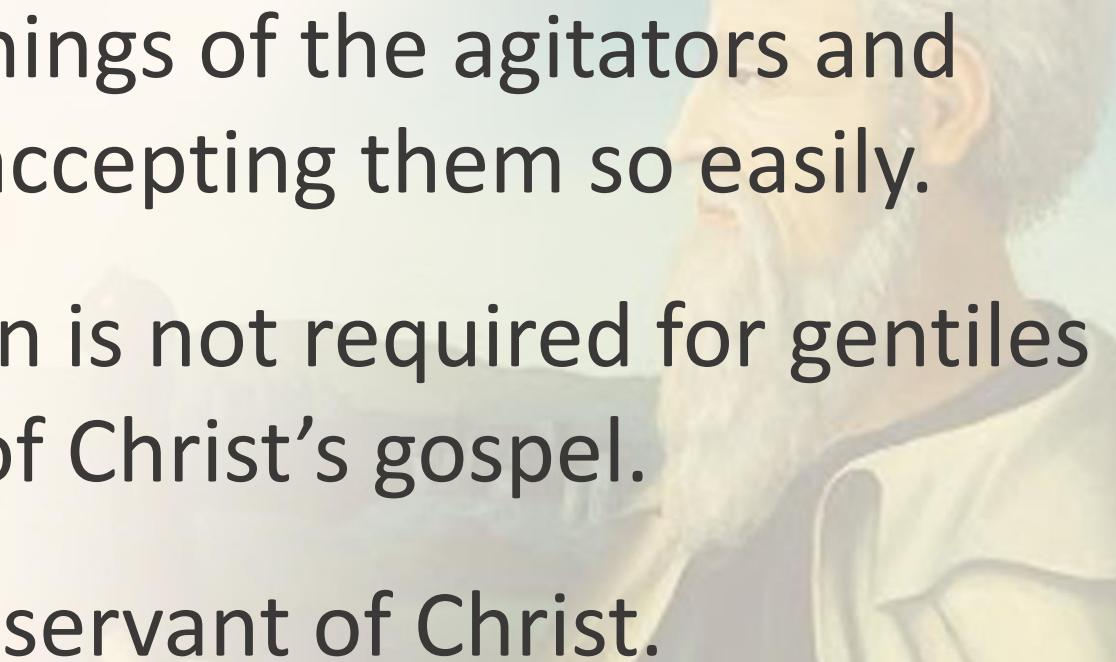
- Paul wrote the letter to warn the church in Galatia against accepting false teachings.
 - Agitators from Jerusalem created an imbalance by focusing on Judaism rather than Christ's teachings.
 - Paul sought to restore the balance by viewing the law through the lens of Christ.



Analyzing the Argument

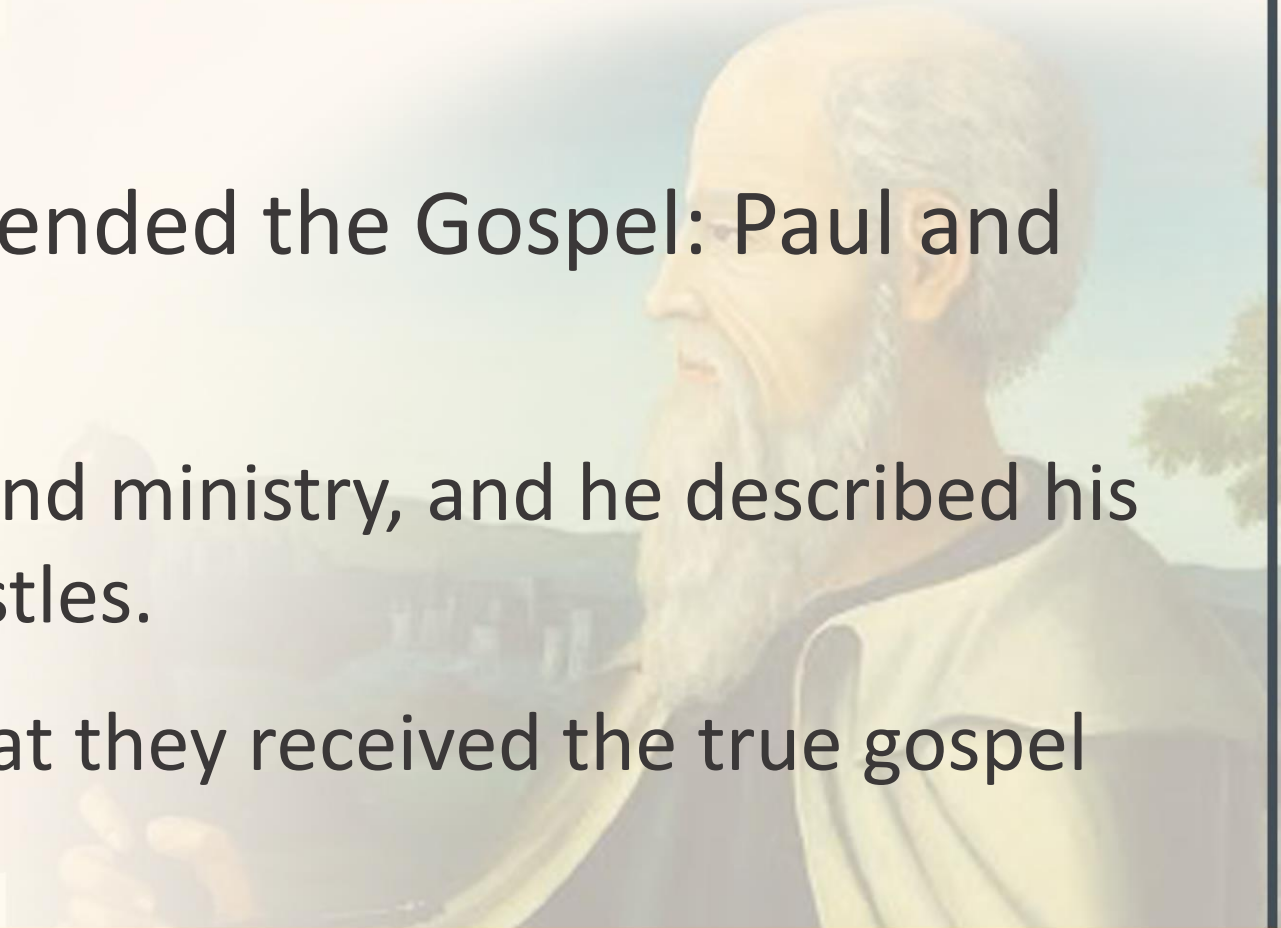
- Paul addressed the issues in three stages:
 1. He focused on his own relationship with the apostles in Jerusalem to help the church understand the relationship between the law of Moses and the gospel.
 2. He used the experiences of the Galatians to help them understand justification is accompanied by faith rather than by obedience to the Torah.
 3. He taught that pleasing God is accomplished through obedience to faith and the Holy Spirit rather than obedience to the law.
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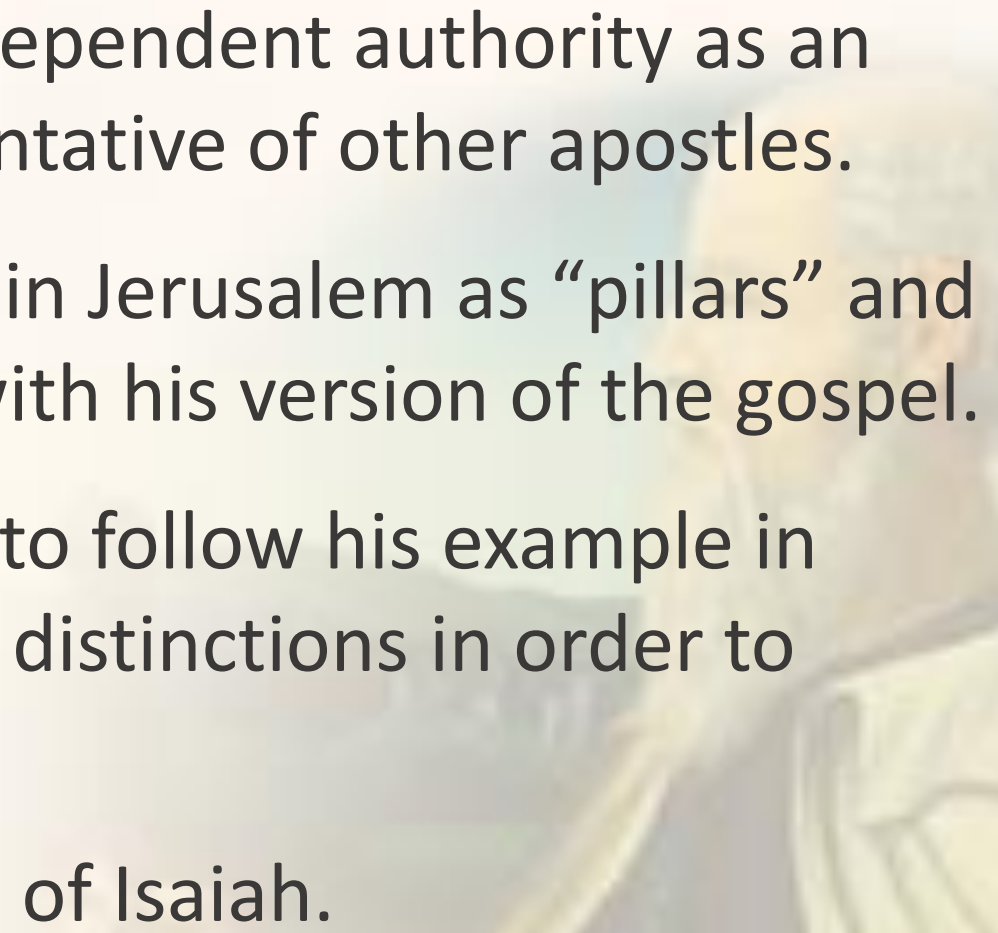
Introduction: The Cross and the New Age (1:1–10)

- Paul refuted the false teachings of the agitators and rebuked the Galatians for accepting them so easily.
 - He argued that circumcision is not required for gentiles and that it is a perversion of Christ's gospel.
 - He declared himself a true servant of Christ.
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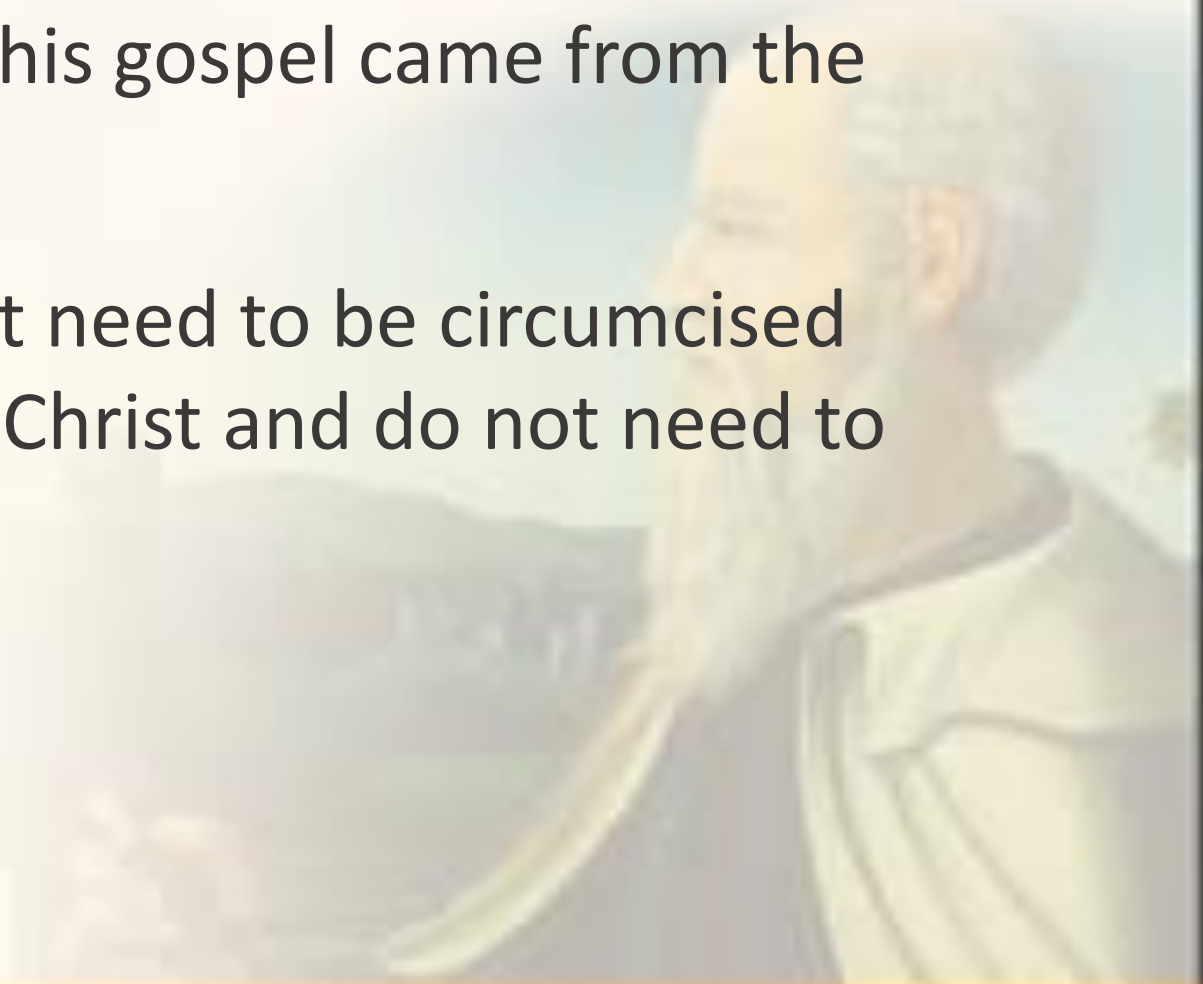
The Truth of the Gospel (1:11–2:21)

- How Paul Received and Defended the Gospel: Paul and the “Pillars” (1:11–2:14)
 - Paul told of his conversion and ministry, and he described his interactions with other apostles.
 - He assured the Galatians that they received the true gospel from him.



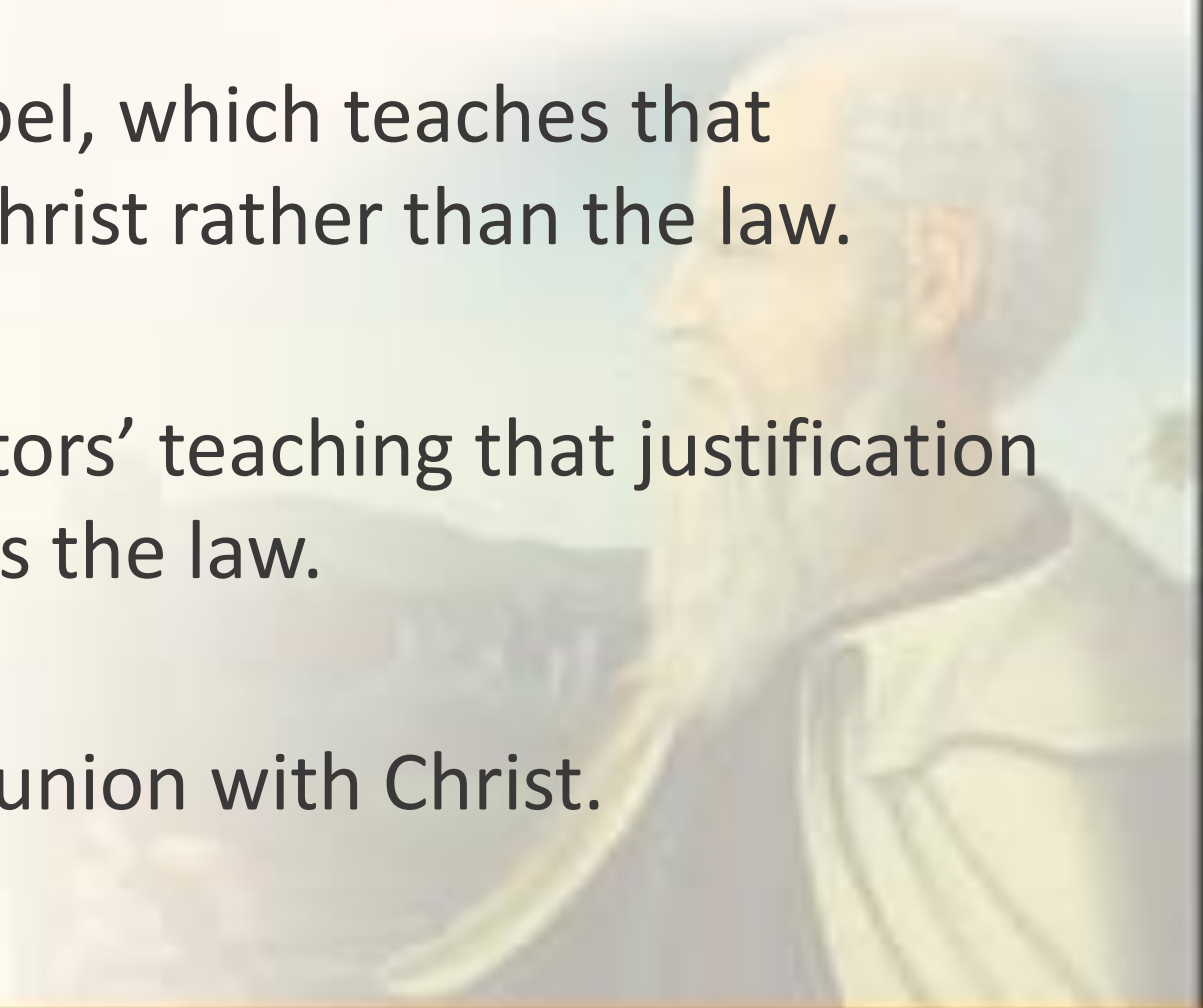
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- He sought to reinforce his independent authority as an apostle rather than a representative of other apostles.
 - He referred to other apostles in Jerusalem as “pillars” and confirmed that they agreed with his version of the gospel.
 - He encouraged the Galatians to follow his example in renouncing all other religious distinctions in order to embrace Christ.
 - Paul compared his call to that of Isaiah.

- He stated that he had minimal contact with the apostles in Jerusalem to emphasize that his gospel came from the revelation of Christ.
- He taught that gentiles do not need to be circumcised because they are cleansed in Christ and do not need to follow Jewish law.



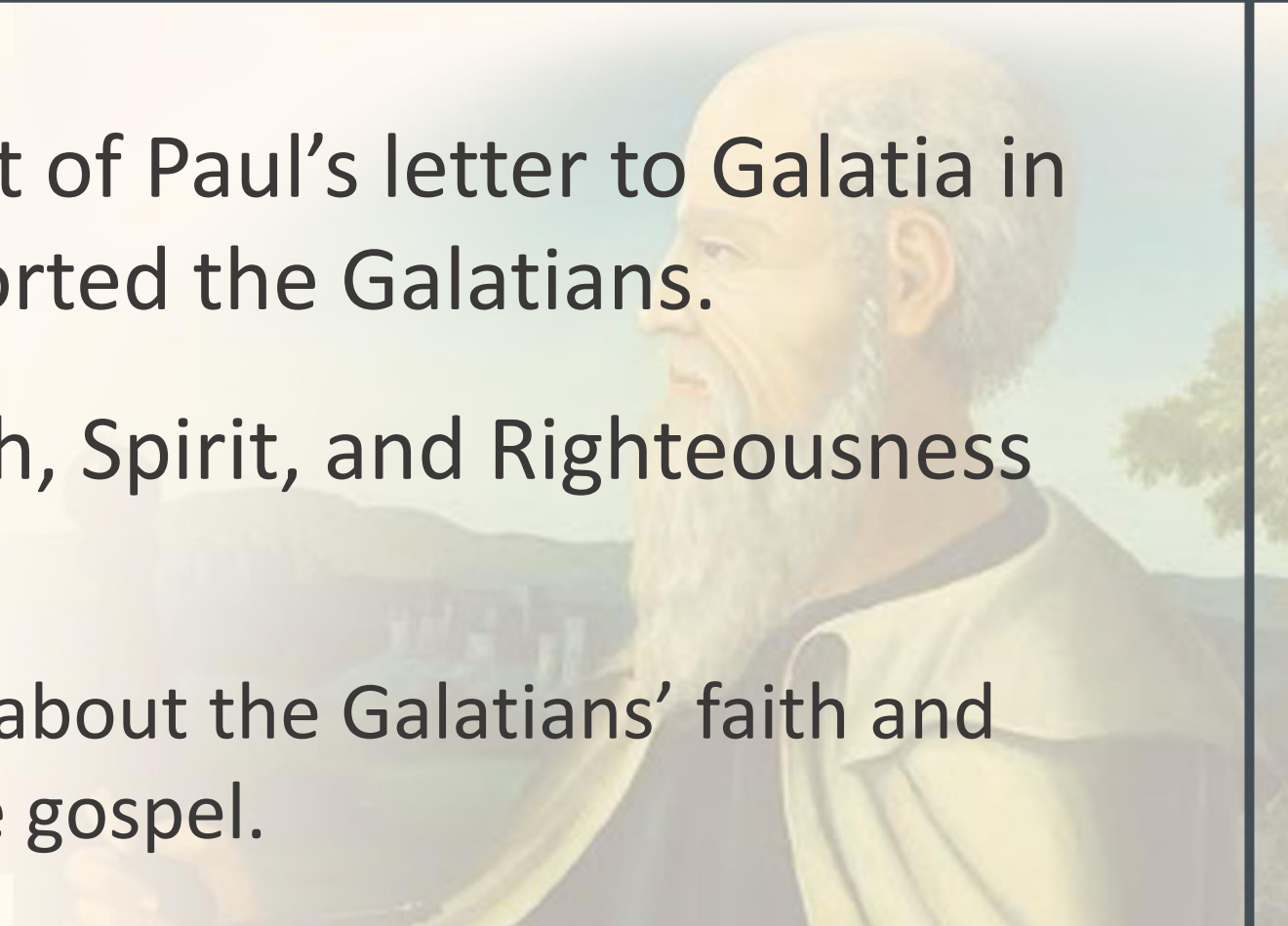
- The Truth of the Gospel Defined (2:15–21)

- Paul focused on the true gospel, which teaches that justification comes through Christ rather than the law.
- Paul argued against the agitators' teaching that justification comes through faith as well as the law.
- He taught the importance of union with Christ.



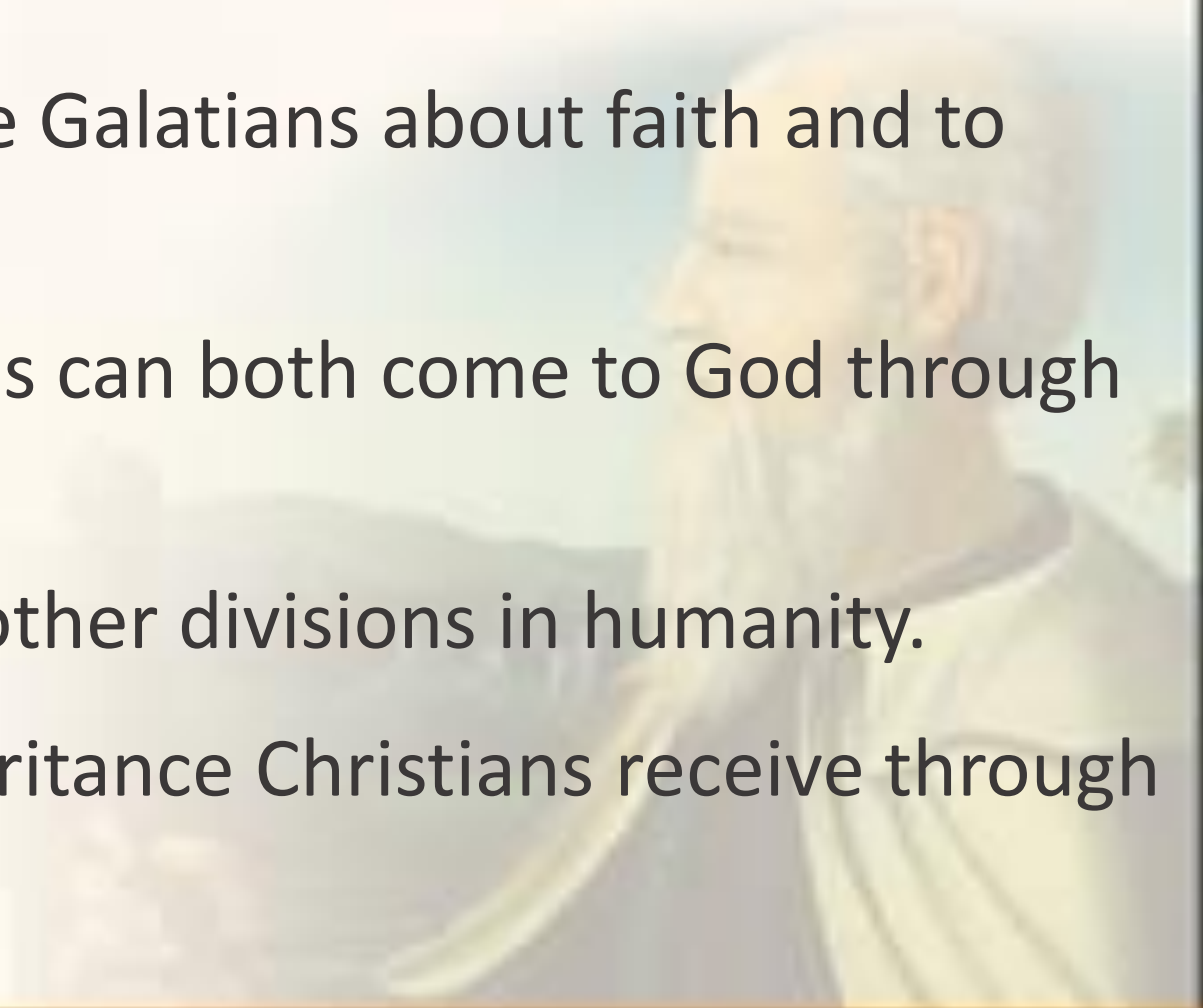
The Defense of the Gospel (3:1–5:12)

- This is the central argument of Paul's letter to Galatia in which he rebuked and exhorted the Galatians.
- Rebuke and Reminder: Faith, Spirit, and Righteousness (3:1–6)
 - Paul expressed his concern about the Galatians' faith and their acceptance of the true gospel.



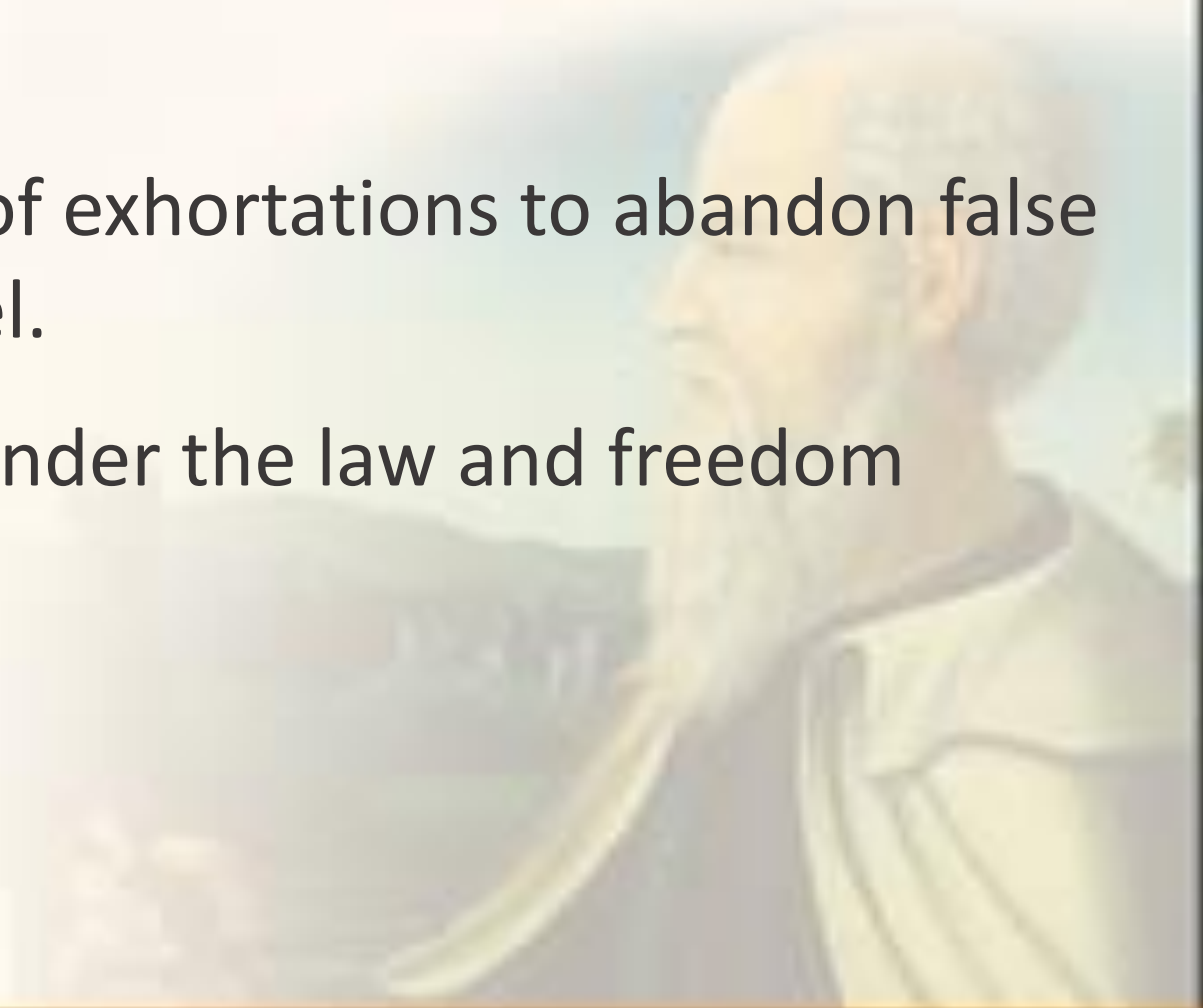
- Argument: Abraham's Children through Incorporation into Christ by Faith (3:7–4:7)

- Paul used Abraham to teach the Galatians about faith and to counter the agitators' claims.
- He taught that Jews and gentiles can both come to God through faith.
- This unity in Christ transcends other divisions in humanity.
- Paul also taught about the inheritance Christians receive through Christ.



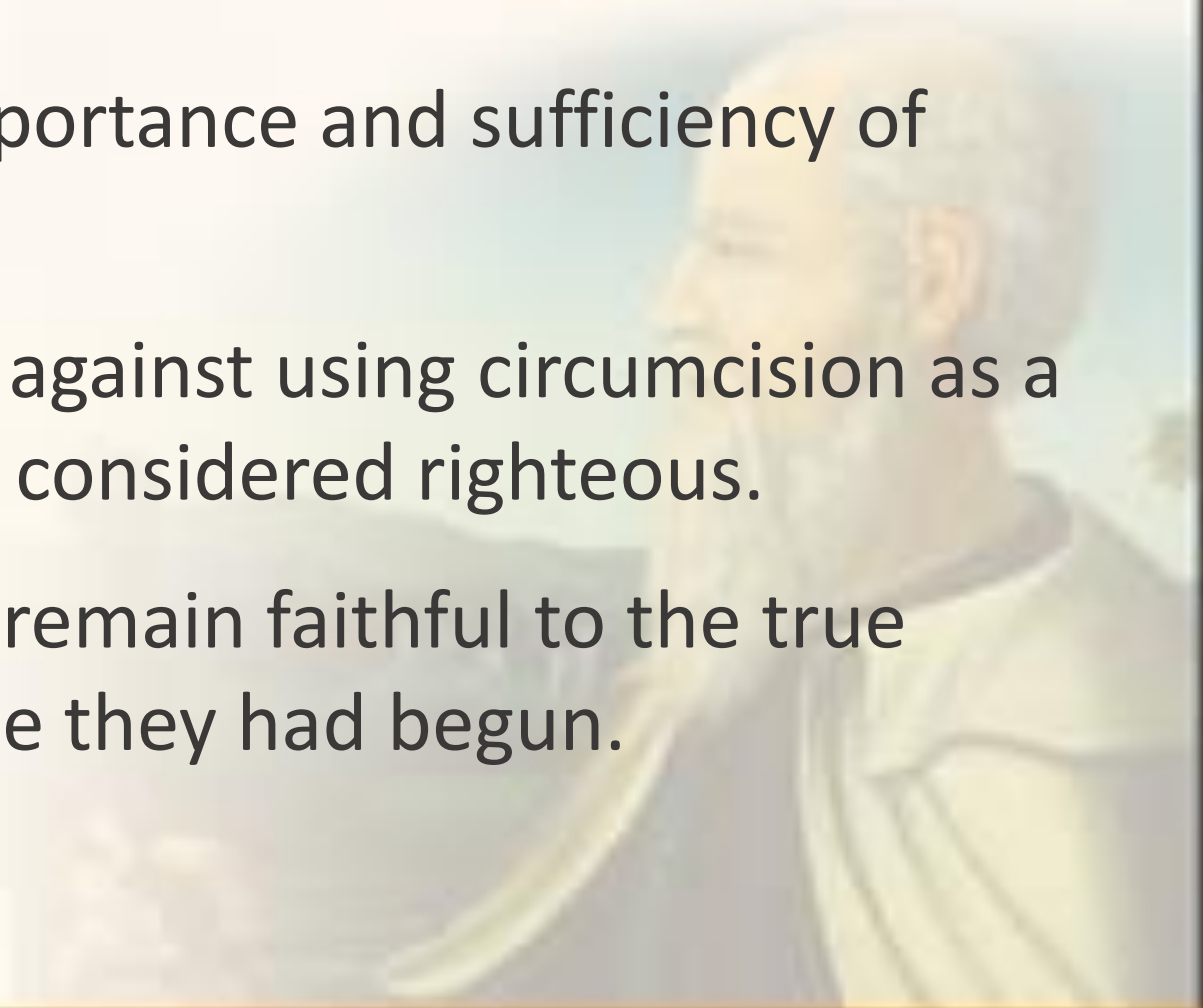
- Appeal (4:8–31)

- This passage includes a series of exhortations to abandon false teachings and follow the gospel.
- Paul often contrasted slavery under the law and freedom through Christ.



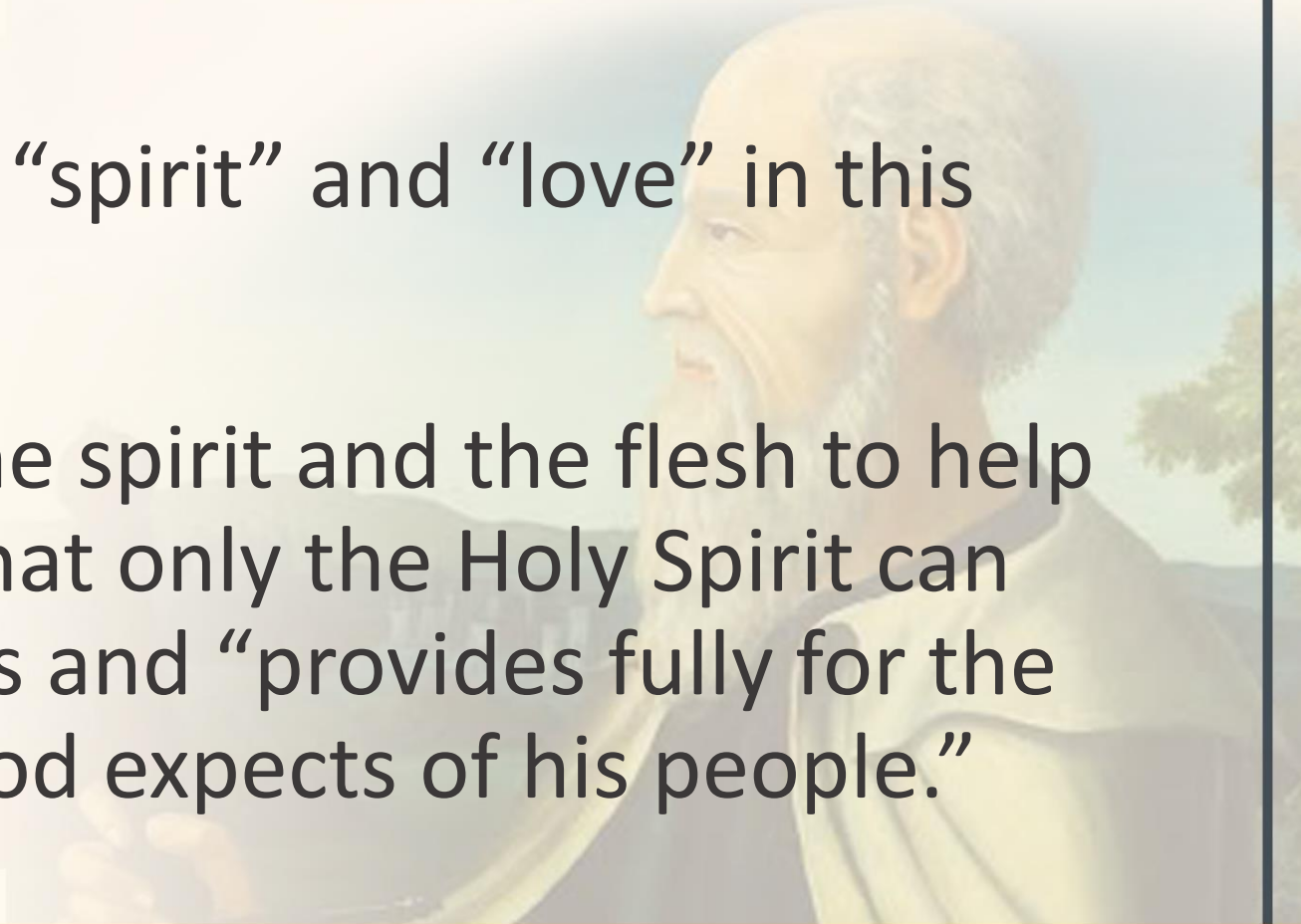
- Exhortation and Warning: Faith, Spirit, and Righteousness (5:1–12)

- Paul again highlighted the importance and sufficiency of faith.
- He also repeated his warning against using circumcision as a requirement for people to be considered righteous.
- He exhorted the Galatians to remain faithful to the true gospel and to finish the course they had begun.



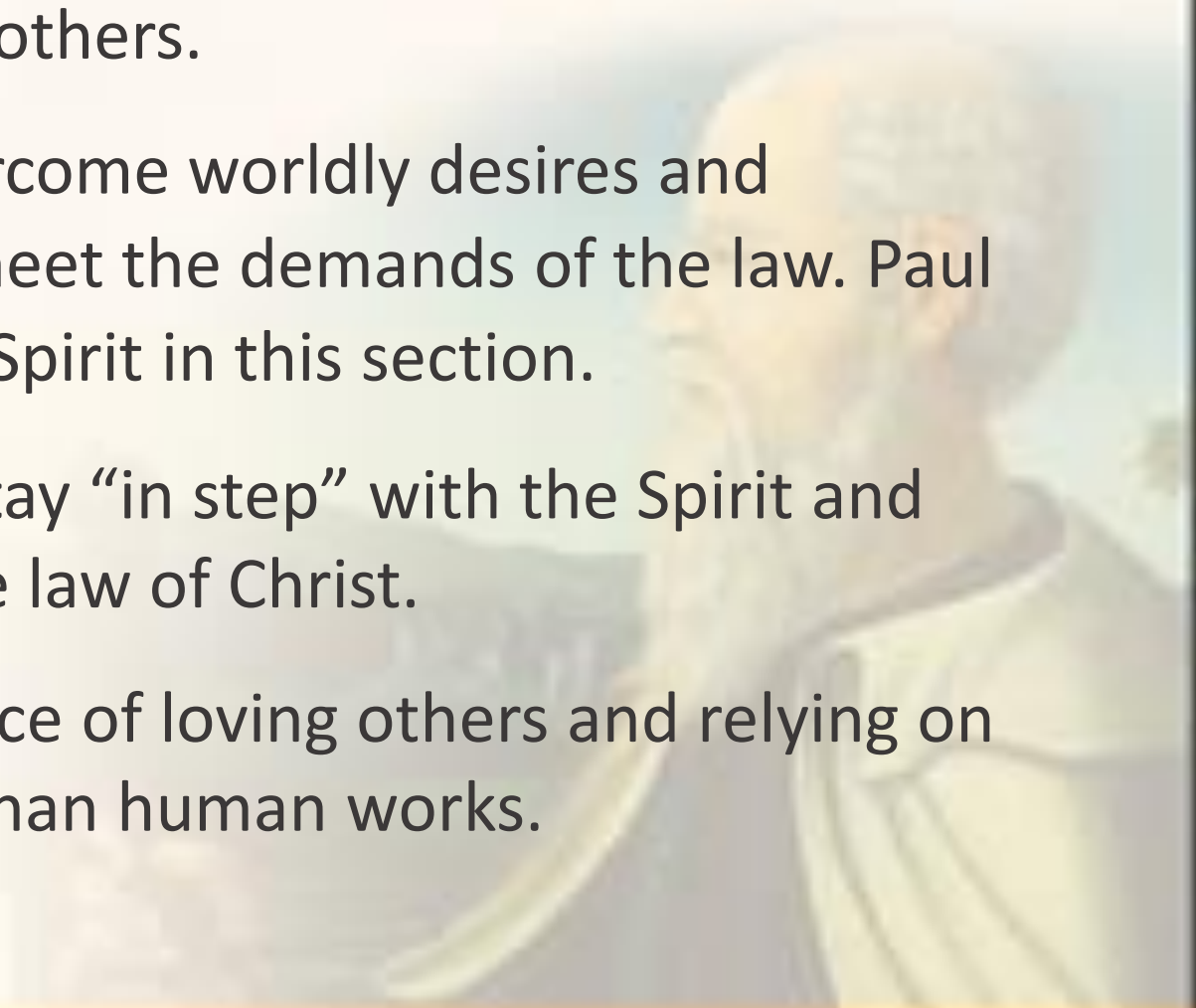
The Life of the Gospel (5:13–6:10)

- Paul repeatedly mentioned “spirit” and “love” in this section of the letter.
- He frequently contrasted the spirit and the flesh to help the Galatians understand that only the Holy Spirit can confirm one’s righteousness and “provides fully for the life of righteousness that God expects of his people.”



- He made this argument in four stages:

1. Jesus himself fulfills the law and provides freedom from the law. This freedom leads to love for others.
2. The Spirit helps Christians overcome worldly desires and temptations and helps them meet the demands of the law. Paul also described the fruit of the Spirit in this section.
3. Paul taught believers how to stay “in step” with the Spirit and encouraged them to follow the law of Christ.
4. Paul emphasized the importance of loving others and relying on the Spirit for salvation rather than human works.



Closing: Cross and New Creation (6:11–18)

- The closing of Galatians does not follow the same patterns of the closings in Paul's other letters.
 - Paul accused the agitators of hypocrisy and selfish motives.
 - He referred to a “new Israel,” which may point to the unity of Jews and gentiles in Christ.
 - He exhorted the Galatians to find their identity in Christ.

