

# **GALATIANS**

## **Lesson 1**

Background:

Galatian included the cities of Anarya (Ankara), Persinus, Tavium and Gordion. Some include the cities of Lyconia (Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe) along with a city of Pisidia (Antioch of Pisidia). Luke in Acts 16:1-6 speaks of Paul going to Lystra and Derbe and then states Paul traveled through the region of Phrygia and Galatia.

Certain tribes of Gauls (French) had tried to invade Greece, were run out and would settle in this area around 279 B.C. Rome would conquer them in 189 BC but allow them to keep their own king. In 25 BC, their self-government was taken away.

They were divided into three tribes and the cities of Tavium, Persinus and Anarya would be their respective capitals.

The majority were of the Celtic race; ancestors of the modern French, Welch, Irish and Scotch. Phrygians, Greeks, Jews and Romans would also settle there. They mainly spoke Greek, but used the Gallic tongue until the fourth century, as well.

Julius Caesar said regarding them: The infirmity of the Gauls is that they are fickle in their resolves and fond of change, and not to be trusted." Augustin Thierry (French Historian) describes them as " Frank, impetuous, impressible, eminently intelligent, but at the same time extremely changeable, inconsistent, fond of show, perpetually quarreling, the fruit of excessive vanity."

If you Consider: Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and Antioch of Pisidia part of Galatia:

Acts 13:13-52

Acts 14:1-7

Acts 14:8-20

Acts 14:21-28

Acts 16:1-5

**Did you notice:**

Acts 13:13-52 Found common ground and then taught more about Jesus, the Messiah and God's plan of salvation. They continued working until they encountered hostility and then went and shared the message with the Gentiles. People in high positions were used to drive Paul and Silas away.

Acts 14:1-7 In Iconium, they were again effective and God empowered them to do signs and wonders besides. They spent significant time there. Their effectiveness was attacked and a plot created to mistreat and stone them.

Acts 14:8-20 At Lystra, they healed a crippled man and were regarded as gods. When they refuse such praise, Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and turned the crowd against them. Paul was stoned and left for dead.

Acts 14:21-24 They moved on to Derbe and won a number of disciples and then returned to strengthen and encourage the disciples in the other cities.

Acts 16:1-5 On Paul's Second Missionary journey, he travels back to Derbe and Lystra. He finds Timothy, and to prevent problems, has Timothy circumcised and join their traveling team. The goal was again to encourage and strengthen the existing churches.

What Lessons can you learn for your personal walk with Jesus?

What lessons can the church learn about how they can serve and function?