

Galatians: A Panoramic View (1)

Shiv Muthukumar

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Issaquah WA

Oct 29th, 2017

Agenda: Galatians

- Prologue: Biblical Theology
- Background
- Structure
- Key Theological Themes

Biblical Theology: Main forms

- Tracing themes through the Bible. E.g.
 - Temple
 - Rest
 - Covenant
- Theology of a book or a corpus. E.g.
 - Johannine Pneumatology
 - Paul's theology of "calling"
 - Theology of Hebrews
 - Gospel according to Paul in Galatians

Biblical Theology: Main features

- Works closely with the text of Scripture.
- Works with the categories from the text.
- Traces progressive revelation.
- Time axis is significant.
- It asks:
 - How is Christ revealed with time?
 - How is Christ revealed by Paul or in Galatians?
 - **NOT:** What does the Bible say about Christ?

Systematic Theology

- Asks integrative questions. E.g.: Who is God? What is sin?
- Conflates all books and authors of the Bible.
- Conflates the time axis.
- May use extra-biblical frameworks and categories. E.g.
 - Use of Aristotelian philosophical framework by Thomas Aquinas
 - Covenant theology
 - Trinity
- Finds its emphases in our cultural and historical context. E.g.
 - Westminster Confessions does not talk about demons, exorcism, etc.
 - American theology books rarely talk about idol worship, persecution, etc.

Systematic versus Biblical Theology

- They complement each other. We need both!
- Biblical theology is systematic and Systematic theology is biblical!
- My approach:
 - Start with a flexible framework and stuff it with the Bible such that the framework grows and reshapes according to the Bible.
 - A stuffed toy with a flexible skin

Background of Galatians

- Churches in Galatia planted by Paul during his missionary journeys.
- **Controversy**
 - “Judaizers” insisted that Gentile Christians keep the Mosaic Law
 - Circumcision and other Jewish observances (5:2, 4:10)
- **Implications**
 - Christ is not enough. Faith + Works (2:16, 3:2)
 - Paul is mistaken and his credibility is shot.

Structure of Galatians

- Opening (1:1-5)
- Body
- Closing (6:11-18)

Structure of Galatians

- Opening (1:1-5)
- **Body**
 - Problem (1:6-10)
 - **Apostolic Defense (1:11-2:14)**
 - Paul's Conversion, call, early ministry (1:11-24)
 - Paul's Acceptance by the Apostles (2:1-10)
 - Paul's Opposition of Peter (2:11-14)
- Closing (6:11-18)

Damascus, etc.
Jerusalem
Antioch

Structure of Galatians

- Opening (1:1-5)
- **Body**
 - Problem (1:6-10)
 - Apostolic Defense (1:11-2:14)
 - Thesis / Solution (2:15-21)
 - Arguments (3:1-5:12)
- Closing (6:11-18)

Arguments (3:1-5:12)

- Argument from conversion experience (3:1-5)
- Argument from Abrahamic Covenant (3:6-14)
- Argument from Mosaic Law (3:15-29)
- Argument through Illustration (4:1-7)
- Pastoral Appeal (4:8-20)
- Argument from Allegory (4:21-5:1)
- Solemn Warning (5:2-12)

Precedence
Purpose

Structure of Galatians

- Opening (1:1-5)
- **Body**
 - Problem (1:6-10)
 - Apostolic Defense (1:11-2:14)
 - Thesis / Solution (2:15-21)
 - Arguments (3:1-5:12)
 - Implications (5:13-6:10)
- Closing (6:11-18)

Bibliography

- Alexander, Desmond T., Brian Rosner, D.A. Carson and Graeme Goldsworthy. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (IVP, 2000).
- Carson, D.A and Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Zondervan, 2005).
- Keller, Timothy. *Galatians For You* (Good Book, 2013).
- Luther, Martin, *Commentary on Galatians*.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology* (IVP, 2004).
- Moo, Douglas. *Galatians*, BECNT (Baker, 2013).
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Galatians*, ZECNT (Zondervan, 2010).