

Dating Galatians

Dating Galatians will depend upon how one dates the death and resurrection of Jesus and the calling of Saul to ministry. Galatians is usually dated to about 50-55 AD, although dates from the late 40s to the late 50s AD have all been proposed by scholars.

Date I posit: 53 -- 55 AD, with 53 AD being more likely.

A Basic Chronology of Paul's Life:

~5 AD -- 31 AD

- *Paul is born (his father is a Roman citizen)
- *Grows up in Tarsus
- *Is educated by Gamaliel in Jerusalem
- *Becomes a zealous member of the Pharisees

33 AD Actively persecutes members of a new Jewish sect centered in Jerusalem that claims Jesus as messiah (Gal 1:13; 1 Cor 15:9)

35 AD Is converted on the Road to Damascus and called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

38 AD Missionary activity in Arabia and Damascus

38 AD Two week visit to Jerusalem, meets Peter and James but not the larger church (Gal 1:22)

38 AD and following Missionary activity in Cilicia, Syria, and Greece from the Antioch church

50 AD Writes I Thessalonians

51 AD Gallio episode at Corinth

51 AD Peter's visit to Antioch

51 AD Jerusalem Council

51- 57 AD Missionary activity in Asia Minor and Greece

- *Writes Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians

57 AD Writes Romans from Corinth

58 AD Arrives in Jerusalem with collection, is arrested and imprisoned 2 years at Caesarea

59-60 AD Sea journey to Rome

60-61/62 AD Imprisonment at Rome

- * Dictation of the Pastoral Epistles shortly before death.

--> Date of Paul's death unknown, though may be 5 or 6 years after 62 AD