



# THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

7A



# **PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS**

SESSION 7A



# GALATIA





# GALATIA





# INFILTRATION OF JUDAIZERS

- Message may have been similar to Acts 15:1
  - May have also relied heavily on an argument based on Abraham's circumcision
  - Claimed backing of Jerusalem: "All the believers there are circumcised – and they are the home church of this movement. Perhaps Paul neglected to tell you this..."



# NOTABLE FEATURES OF GALATIANS

- Paul's first letter in the canon of Scripture
- Missing a "Thanksgiving" at the beginning
- Best autobiographical sketch of Paul's earlier years
- Urgent appeal to his own converts not to 'fall from grace' (5:4)
- Theologically consistent with his later writings
- What can we learn about his ministry in Lystra from this letter?



# HOW DID PAUL COME TO KNOW THE GOSPEL?

- I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it ...
- But I received it through a revelation ...
- Of Jesus Christ
- His conversion experience is primarily this revelation
  - What was the content?





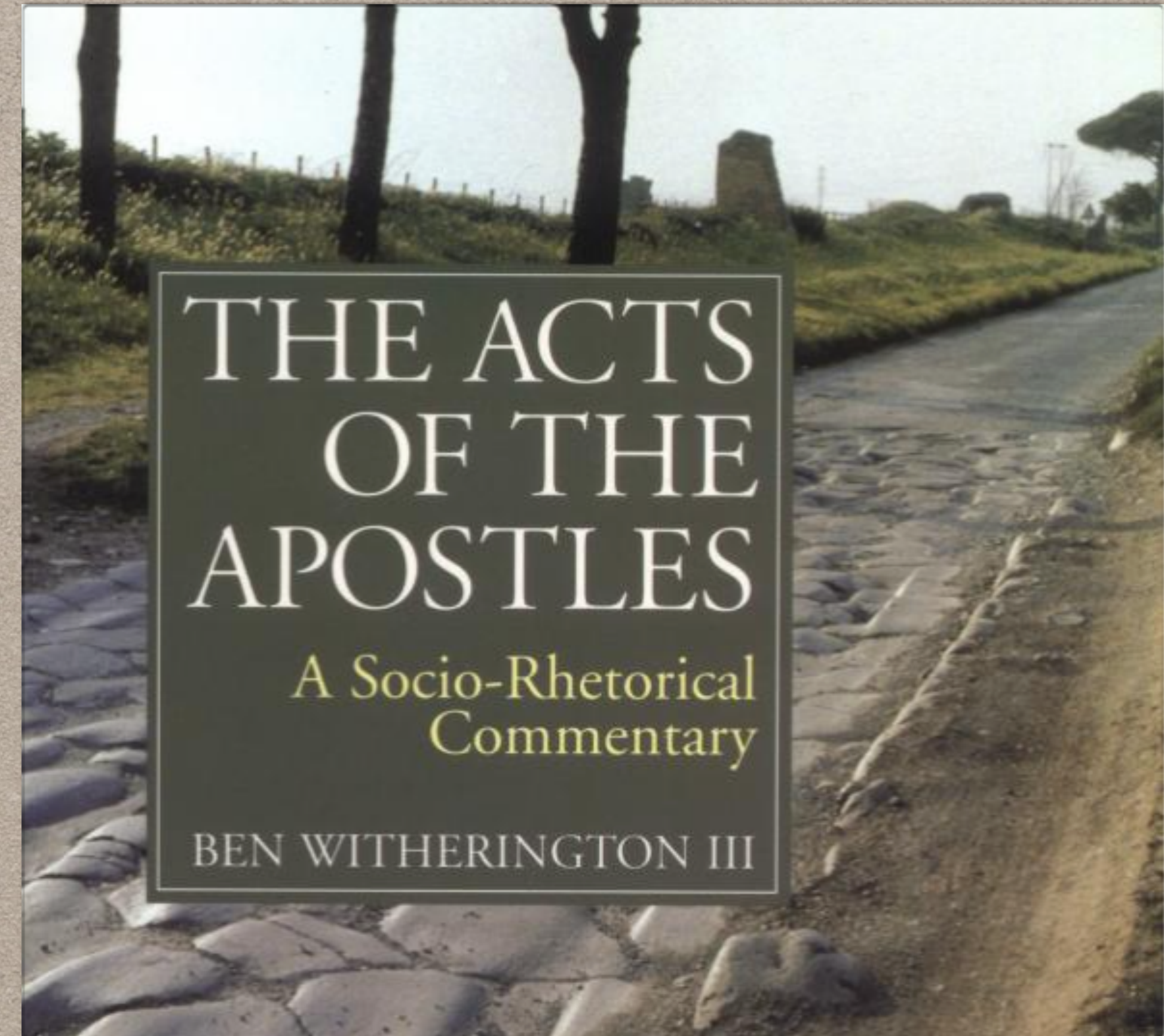
# DATING *GALATIANS*

- *Acts* and *Galatians* both have different chronological data, with some overlap, and require some degree of reconciling.
- Acts 11:27-30; 12:25; ch. 15; Galatians 1-2
- Debate centers around:
  - Whether Paul wrote to the Northern or Southern Galatians
  - Whether Paul's visit to Jerusalem in Galatians 2 is his visit in Acts 11:30 or Acts 15



# LOCATING *GALATIANS* CHRONOLOGICALLY

- Read some arguments from Ben Witherington, III in his commentary on Acts, pp. 90ff.
- We place this likely before the Jerusalem Council in AD 49.





# CIRCUMCISION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Romans 2-4
- 1 Cor. 7:19
- Gal. 2; 5:1ff.; 6:12ff.
- Phil. 3:2-3
- Col. 2:11; 3:11





# THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

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7B



# **SONS OF ABRAHAM, SONS OF GOD**

SESSION 7B



# CIRCUMCISION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Romans 2-4
- 1 Cor. 7:19
- Gal. 2; 5:1ff.; 6:12ff.
- Phil. 3:2-3
- Col. 2:11; 3:11



“These issues of grafted ancestry and sonship are huge in the life of Timothy [and will be in Paul’s relationship with him, as well].”

*-Neill Gibson*



# SONS OF ABRAHAM

- Galatians 3
  - The key to being sons of Abraham is hearing and believing, not keeping the Law
  - Under the Law, we are all under a curse
  - In Christ, we are redeemed from this curse and given the blessing of Abraham:
    - The Holy Spirit in us, which is how God is blessing the nations



# SONS OF GOD (NOT SLAVES)

- Galatians 3:23-4:7
  - "Sons of God"
    - No longer under the Law / tutor
    - Abraham's descendants, heirs
    - Adopted, Spirit of His Son: "Abba!"
    - No longer slaves, but sons, heirs



“These issues of grafted ancestry and sonship are huge in the life of Timothy [and will be in Paul’s relationship with him, as well].”

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# BE FREE, AND DON'T FALL

- Galatians 5:1-6
  - Be free, not yoked with slavery
  - Circumcision obligates complete compliance with the Law, which we are incapable of.
  - Don't "fall from grace"
  - It's not about the outward appearance, but about faith working through love.



# PAUL AND SILAS ARRIVE, DELIVERING THE RESULTS OF THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

- Story?
- This puts an end to all the wondering about this issue, because both Paul [of the *Galatians* letter] and Silas [authorized by the Jerusalem Council to deliver the results] are there to authenticate this message.



# AN APOSTOLIC INVITATION

- Faithfulness as a disciple was demonstrated
- “Well spoken of”
- Paul wanted him to join his team
- One small last detail
- Say goodbye, be willing
- This is in Paul’s “Second Missionary Journey” – It’s Timothy’s First.