1. Why spend so much time on Galatians?

2. Today’s Lectures: Overview
   Big Issues (Pistis Christou and the Law)
   Paul and Ethics – a case study with Galatians

3. Galatians: Issues and Questions
   Focus on unity and the Law
   Paul’s Gospel to the Galatians: Adoption as people of God through Abrahamic faith in Christ
   Questions about: dating, addressees, the Law and Jewish tradition, the Spirit, justification by faith and
   works of the Law, Peter and Jerusalem, ethics
   Issues are: exegetical, situational, about genre (Betz)

4. When, Where, and to Whom?
   Dating: two major questions 1) location of Galatian churches and 2) relationship of 2.1-10 to Acts
   Relation to Acts 11 (13-14) or to Acts 15, e.g. the position of the Jerusalem/apostolic council
   South Galatia hypothesis (Acts 13 and Galatians composed 49-53 CE)
   North Galatia hypothesis (Acts 15 and Galatians composed 50-57 CE)
   Addressed to Gentiles; circular letter to a region and not a city/town

5. Paul and the Galatians
   Authorship is not in doubt; highest concentration of Paul’s autobiographical detail
   Paul perhaps visited once before (4.13) and experienced physical illness/infirmity
   He was warmly received (3.15; 4.12-20; 6.1)
   “Agitators” have come into the community, undermining Paul’s teaching and authority (1.7; 5.10)
   Identity of the agitators is much debated:
   Note the danger of mirror-reading (Barclay)
   They are likely:
   gifted rhetoricians and interpreters of Scripture;
   claim close connection with Jerusalem church;
   preach a form of Christianity which fronts Abrahamic descent in conjunction with the
   Mosaic law. They urge circumcision (6.12-13) and observance of Jewish days, months,
   etc (4.10; 21)
   Options for identity: Jewish Christians nomists; Gentile Christian literalists;
   Jewish Christian Gnostics; 2 groups (nomists and libertines)

6. Overview
   Introduction (1.1-9) and opening statement of apostleship, stating the conflict and issues at stake
   1.10-2.21: Paul’s apologia: his life and revelation of God to him (1.12-16);
   visit with leaders in Jerusalem (1.18-24; 2.1-10); rupture with Peter in Antioch (2.1-14);
   statement of Paul’s gospel: justification by faith vs by “works of the law” (2.15-21)
3.1-4.31 (or alternatively 4.7 or 4.11): central arguments of the letter with discourse on the law and justification by faith; scriptural interpretation/proof from Scripture and the Abrahamic inheritance (3.6-9; 4.21-31: Abraham, Hagar/Sarah, Sinai/Zion...); faith and righteousness; Galatian experience of the Spirit
5.1-6.10: ethical exhortations including works of law and fruits of the Spirit; cross and new creation; proper exercise of freedom
6.11-18: conclusion and Paul’s own greeting

7. Key points of focus/debate
Paul’s Theology (understanding of God) in Galatians
*Pistis Christou* (2.16; 3.22)
The Law in Galatians: Justification by faith vs works of the Law

8. Key debates to note
Galatian location (North/South)
What makes Paul a legitimate apostle?
How independent is Paul really from Jerusalem?
How divisive was Paul’s argument with Peter really?
What makes the opponents such a threat? Is there a more sympathetic interpretation?
How successful is Paul’s exegesis/interpretation in Galatians 3-4?
What is the Law of Christ?
What makes Paul’s ethics tick?
What is the “faith of Christ” (*pistis Christou*)?

9. Paul’s Ethics — a case study
Pauline theology? Pauline ethics?
Influences: Christ, Jewish, Hellenistic
Situational vs general (Gal; 1 Cor; 1 Thess)
Justification by faith — Spirit and flesh — Abraham — Christ
Participation in Christ is key
Implications of apocalyptic interpretations for ethics (Käsemann, Martyn, et al)

Bibliography