

## Galatians Chapter 1

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- Written to the churches – plural of Galatia. Galatia was not a city like Ephesus or Colossae, but a region in what is modern day Turkey, containing a number of cities and churches.



Map, handout oh22

- Written around 57-58 AD, by the Apostle Paul probably from Corinth.
- Paul describes his own conversion and that Christ is the Savior of all people everywhere, not just those who observed every detail of the Jewish law.

Paul cites three sources of authority as he addresses the churches in Galatia.

1. Apostolic authority granted by Jesus and God the Father.
  2. The authority of a spiritual father, he first shared the gospel with them, led them to the Lord, and founded the churches that he is addressing.
  3. The Word of God is his authority, the Gospel itself is authoritative and not the contriving of man, but of God.
- In the churches of Galatia there were false teachers who followed Paul and sought to tear down the works that he'd started; disparaging Paul and contradicting his teachings.
  - These false teachers are teaching a false gospel: a mixture of faith in Jesus and of keeping the "law", "Judaizers", keeping Christianity as a sect of Judaism. So Paul writes to refute them and to encourage the believers to Godly living.
  - The theme of this book is: The liberty of Christ vs: the bondage of the law.

**John 5:24** "Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

**John 6:28-29** <sup>28</sup>Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."

- Anyone who uses the word "and" after "believes" is talking about religion, about a false gospel.

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V: 1 Paul, an "apostle"... (Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, Galatians, and Timothy) One who is sent out, a messenger.

- As opposed to "Paul a servant..." or "Paul a prisoner..." (Romans, Philippians, Titus, Philemon).

- Paul is articulating and exerting his apostolic authority.
- Not of men, meaning not for the pleasure of man, but of God, not by man – but appointed an Apostle by God for God’s purposes.
- Paul goes right away after that which had been challenged by his detractors; his authority to speak and write these things to the church.

V: 2 From Paul and those who are accompanying him, who aren’t named.

- What are “brethren”? Like minded, fellow believers, related by blood – the blood of Jesus.

V: 3 Typical Pauline salutation: Grace the Greek salutation, Peace (Shalom) the Hebrew salutation from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Define “grace”
- Define “peace” The absence of conflict or hostility, quiet, stillness.
- The other connection between these words is that we cannot know God’s peace until we are partakers of His grace.
- Greetings from God; the New Testament equivalent of “Thus saith the Lord...”

“Lord – Jesus – Christ” This is not first, middle, and last name.

1. “Lord” is His title – “Adonai” - Master
2. “Jesus” is His name: Yeshua, Jeshua, or Joshua: God is salvation.
3. “Christ” - The Anointed One, the Mesheach – Messiah.

V: 4 From Jesus who gave Himself, dying on the cross in our stead, saving us from this evil world.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**John 15:13** “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

**2 Peter 3:9** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

**1 Timothy 2:4** “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

- This evil world: God gave Adam dominion over this world in the Garden of Eden, when Adam submitted to the word of Satan, he at the same time transferred his dominion over to the enemy. This has been an evil world ever since.

V: 5 To Jesus be glory for ever and ever Amen!

- All glory, honor, and power belong to Jesus!

V: 6 Paul is amazed that having heard the truth, they / we are so easily turned to the lies of the world.

- So quickly moving from the gift of God’s grace to a false Gospel.

Grace and gift go together:

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- We are called to live by grace:

**1 Corinthians 15:10** “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

- Grace is the foundation of the Christian life:

**Romans 5:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- What is the real Gospel? Jesus died on the cross to taking our place and our punishment upon Himself, and rose again that we too who receive Him, would be born again to new life in Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

- What is “another” gospel? Any other Gospel, any other besides the original.

V: 7 The word trouble used here is the same word that is used in Matthew 14:26 when the disciples were troubled in the ship on the sea of Galilee during the storm that Jesus calmed.

- Any other gospel really isn't the Gospel, the good news – because they have either added some work to it, or taken away God's grace or redemptive power from it, it's not the same.

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”

V: 8-9 Repeats the same admonition: though we or an angel from heaven – or another “prophet” – let them be accursed, anathema, doomed to destruction, beyond redemption – damned to hell.

**1 Kings 13** Young prophet commissioned by God to speak to king Jeroboam and go straight home, not to turn aside for anything.

- Consumed by a lion.

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 10 We need to determine who we are trying to please, who we are trying to convince.

**1 Thessalonians 2:4** “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

**Malachi 3:16** “Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.”

V: 11-12 I certify – declare – make known to you...

- The Gospel which I preach is not of men or received from man, but by revelation of Jesus Christ.

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

V: 14 Saul was a zealot!

**Romans 10:2** “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”

V: 15 Paul recognized that God had a plan for him from before he was born, he could see the hand of God touching his life long before he truly understood who God is.

**Psalms 139:13-15** “<sup>13</sup>For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. <sup>14</sup>I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. <sup>15</sup>My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.”