

Galatians 1.1-10

What's the Big Deal?

30 yrs BETWEEN Paul's CONVERSION on ROAD to DAMASCUS
 And having his Head CHOPPED OFF in ROMAN DUNGEON
 TRAVELED thru Roman World – Preaching Christ / Planting Churches
 Wrote LETTERS to Guide and Direct these FLEDGLING Churches
 13 Letters recorded in NT – Uniquely INSPIRED by HOLY SPIRIT
 Speak BOTH to 1st C Church Received > TIMELESS for ALL Churches

Next 3 Months in ZGC > Study Letter to GALATIANS

The Epistle to the Galatians is my Epistle; I have betrothed myself to it; it is my wife.
 Martin Luther, 1519



GALATIA > Churches in Region, South/Central Part of Modern Turkey

Acts 13 & 14 – 1st M Journey: Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

Paul's SERMON to Church in Pisidian Antioch: Let it be known to you brothers, that through this man (Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Acts 13.38,39

AMAZING Simple but Profound Truth > Forgiven thru Faith in Jesus

Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	Chapters 5-6
Personal	Doctrinal	Practical
Gospel Defense	Gospel Declaration	Gospel Display
Grace and the Gospel	Grace and the Law	Grace and the Christian Life

1. Apostasy

Galatians MOST CONFRONTATIONAL of Paul's 13 Letters

Typical Greek Letter Opens: Author's Name, Recipient, Good Wishes

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
1 Corinthians 1.2

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus
Ephesians 1.1

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae Colossians 1.2

v. 2 To the churches of Galatia / Mere IDENTIFICATION, Basic FACT

a. Reaction v. 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him

Again this is ATYPICAL – Other Letters HAPPY, LIGHT, CHEERY!

OTHER Letters – Thank God for you – Rejoice with you – Proud of you

HERE: I am in SHOCK, SADDNESS, BITTER SURPRISE over you!

DESERTING > Word for SOLDIER who REVOLTS or DESERTS

I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain... Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?... my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Galatians 4.11-20

b. Reason v. 7 some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ

After GOOD BEGINNING > False Teachers visited Galatian churches

....some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15.1

False Teachers SPREAD WRONG IDEAS Quickly: **Distort & Confuse**

Were NOT JUST DISTORTING Gospel:CORRUPTING, REVERSING

Jerusalem Council responded to THESE Very False Teachers:

Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds

Acts 15.24

“gone out from us”: Jesus: Messiah, God, Died for our sins on cross, Rose from Dead, Must Believe in Jesus to be Saved

You must let Moses finish what Christ has begun...by your obedience to the law...You must finish Christ's unfinished work... John Stott

The issue was the acceptance of Gentiles into the Church. Were they obligated to observe those 'markers' of Jewishness: circumcision, kosher food laws and the Sabbath?
Derek Thomas

c. Result

vs. 6,7...deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another one

Much MORE than WRONG Theological Principle, Idea, Interpretation

DESERTING HIM – Turning Back on JESUS HIMSELF

Cannot Separate Theology & Experience / Faith & Life / Jesus & Bible

Cannot FORSAKE the GOSPEL without FORSAKING GOD

You are severed from Christ, *you who would be justified by the law*; you have fallen away from grace.
Galatians 5.4

2. Apostleship

Teachers who came to Galatia – Challenged Paul AND his Preaching

REJECTED BOTH the Message AND the Messenger

Most of Galatians 1 & 2 – Paul DEFENDS his Calling as an APOSTLE

(Jesus) appointed twelve--designating them apostles --that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.
Mark 3.14,15

APOSTLE (Greek) - "ONE WHO IS SENT" e.g. "with authority"

Jesus: "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

John 15:26

Apostles WROTE NEW TESTAMENT - CONTRA "red letter" Bible

NONE written by Hand of Jesus > ALL of it is the WORD OF JESUS

WHO is Paul? NOT one of 12 Apostles > SELF-APPOINTED Imposter
 Many TODAY DIS' Paul in Same Way – INSIDE & OUTSIDE Church

“I Follow Jesus NOT Paul”: Paul complicated Jesus’ Simple Message

St. Paul and St. John were men of like passions to ourselves...being human their inspiration was not even or uniform...They too had their inner axes to grind of which they were unaware. What they tell us must have a self-authenticating quality, like music. If it doesn't we must be prepared to refuse it. We must have the courage to disagree. H.A. Williams

Sometimes I think Paul is wrong, and I have ventured to say so. C.H. Dodd
From the Introduction of his commentary on Romans!

a. What it was Not – Gk Text Galatians 1.1: Paul, Apostle, NOT

v.1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man

ALL Christians should be able to say MINISTRY NOT from MEN

Not MEN-Pleasers or MEN-Servers: Lord Jesus CALLED us Serve Him

But OUR Call came THROUGH Human Instruments: ELDERS of BICF

Call to FOLLOW: **Thru** Friend, Family, Preacher, Book, Televangelist

Earlier SAUL of Tarsus APOSTLE of Men > to Damascus by Sanhedrin

CRITICS: Paul ONLY SENT through Church of Antioch on M Journey

Paul NOT ONLY his CALL thru Jesus > Jesus is the CHANNEL

b. What it Was

v. 1 but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead
 NOTE how Easily Jesus Christ fits in Same Sentence w/ God the Father

Even Paul's ENEMIES had NO Quarrel with DEITY of Jesus

Just 20 yrs after DEATH of Jesus – Ordinary – Most Extraordinary!

The Apostle set Jesus Christ sharply over against humanity...through 'a man'
 and through 'Jesus Christ' were two entirely distinct things...Who was this
 person who is treated thus as a stupendous heavenly being?...Was he a mythical

personage of remote antiquity, around whom legends of the ages would have been free to grow?...Not at all. He was a Jewish teacher, a contemporary of Paul, who had lived in Palestine and died a shameful death only a few years before... one of whose brothers Paul had actually met...Paul was a monotheist of the monotheists...How could such a monotheist, such a believer in the awful separateness between the one God and the world that He had made, possibly come to exalt a mere man, Jesus, to godhead?...That fact is enough to give the thoughtful historian pause. J. Gresham Machen

Jesus is MORE than EXAMPLE of Faith / Paul's OBJECT of Faith

Apostolic COMMISSION Given PAUL by RISEN CHRIST

Jesus to Paul "...I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you"

Acts 26.12-18

Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? 1 Corinthians 9:1

v. 2 and all the brothers who are with me: UNITED BUT UNIQUE

Paul part of Mission Team: ONLY Team Leader APOSTLE of Jesus

IF Paul NOT Apostle WHY Listen to him? NOT Authoritative Message!

IF Paul IS Apostle > REJECT Paul is to REJECT JESUS HIMSELF!

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." John 13.20

There can be no apostolic succession, other than a loyalty to the apostolic doctrine of the New Testament...they were unique. John Stott

3. Affirmation

Paul DOES have something GOOD to Say TO the GALATIANS

NOT ABOUT THEM or FALSE Teachers > about JESUS CHRIST

Paul HOPES Strong Words and Irrefutable Logic > DRIVE THEM to X

Before He REBUKES them he REMINDS them of God's Saving Love

Salvation all Grace – Solely the Will and Work of God - Lovingkindness

a. Purpose of Christ's Death: For our Sins

vs. 3,4 the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins

Incredible TRANSACTION – Christ took OUR SINS on His Shoulders
 PAID their FULL PRICE thru being NAILED to a Cross in OUR Place
 Our SUBSTITUTE, SIN-BEARER – All Bad for Him, All Good for Us

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

Galatians 3.13

b. Release through Christ’s Death: Rescued from Evil

v. 4 to deliver us from the present evil age > Gospel of RESCUE

WORD for this DELIVERANCE used by LUKE in ACTS

When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and *rescued me* from the hand of Herod...” Acts 12.11

“Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and *rescued him*, having learned that he was a Roman citizen.”

Acts 23.26,27

Christ died to pay for our sins. But Christ was also crucified to emancipate us from this evil age...dominated by the evils of war, murder, oppression, slavery, incest, abortion. Jesus died on the cross to save us from all of it, not just individually, but together, as a new humanity.

Philip Ryken

By X’s Resurrection – AGE to Come has BROKEN into Present Age

Not Rescued OUT of this World – World driven OUT of Us

Now IN World – No Longer OF it > SENT INTO it for Honor of Savior

c. Origin of Christ’s Death: Will of God who would think of this plan?

v. 4 according to the will of our God and Father

Cross was PLAN of God from ALL ETERNITY – Not AFTERThought

CREATOR God is Slain to SAVE His SINFUL Children!

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified Galatians 3.1

How did Galatians SEE Jesus on Cross? Died Years & Miles Away!

Public PORTRAYAL of Jesus on Cross thru PREACHING of Paul
 HERALD of Crucified King – Preaching – OPENED Eyes of Hearts
 Same Duty & Privilege TODAY – Make Jesus KNOWN & SEEN

NOT Saved because you Pray & Fast for 40 Days here in Beijing

Or READ the whole NT in 40 Days – Or whole Bible in a Year

God is NOT Persuaded to Like Us More by ANYTHING WE DO!!

EVEN our BEST PRAYERS could send us to HELL!

Jesus stood in Jordan River – Father said “This is my Son whom I love!”

God LOVES You and Me because of HIM > When we are IN HIM!

Even PAUL Never tries to GAIN FAVOR with God by his work
 He was Apostle – Great Theologian, Missionary, Martyr > Great Sinner!

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2.20

4. Anathema

It is obvious to everyone, even at first glance, that this letter breathes an indignant spirit. But I must explain the cause of Paul’s anger against his disciples. It could not be something small and unimportant or he would not have used such intensity. Only small-minded, gloomy, and bad-tempered people are annoyed by ordinary matters, just as lazy and listless people lose heart in important matters. Paul was not that kind of person. What then was the offence which aroused him? It was serious and important, one which was separating them all from Christ

John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, 394

New Perspective on Paul: E.P. Sanders, James Dunn, N.T. Wright

Galatians is about ECCLESIOLOGY NOT SOTERIOLOGY

Ecclesia = Church – Who BELONGS to God’s Church? Jew? Gentile?

Soter = Salvation – How do you ENTER the Church? How be SAVED?

New Perspective: Problem of False Teachers was RACISM / Exclusion

PARTLY Right – Today Churches with Good Doctrine can be RACIST

RACISM is HORRIBLE – but it will NOT send you to HELL!

What sends people to HELL is REJECTING Free Forgiveness of Jesus

BIG DEAL of Galatians – Zeal of Paul – People are in Danger of Hell

Not matter of Headcoverings – Tongues – Mode of Baptism – Rapture

GOSPEL ITSELF is at Stake – TRUTH of God / HERESIES of Man

vs. 8,9 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

DRIVES Post-Modern, Open-Minded, Pluralistic Person Up the Wall!

“If you DISAGREE with ME – You are going to HELL”

Accursed / ANATHEMA – Handed over to God

Word used for OFFERINGS given in TEMPLE / Achan after Jericho

He who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel. Joshua 7.15

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10.31

a. Impartial - ERROR is ERROR no matter WHO Speaks It

vs. 8 *even if we* or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary

NOT Personal SPITE or ANIMOSITY of Paul – Zeal for God’s Truth

The church's greatest danger is not the anti-gospel outside the church; it is the counterfeit gospel inside the church. The Judaizers did not walk around Pisidian Antioch wearing T-shirts that said, "Hug me, I am a false apostle." What made them so dangerous was that they knew how to talk the way Christians talk...all the right terminology...Only they did not have the gospel after all.

Philip Ryken

b. Deliberate – Not HASTY, CARELESS Words, Well Thought Out

v. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again

The apostle repeats it to show the Galatians that this was no excessive, exaggerated statement, into which passion had hurried him, but his calmly formed unalterable opinion.

John Brown

Nothing LESS than TRUTH of God & GLORY of Christ AT STAKE!

Jesus: If lead Little Ones ASTRAY – Better have Milstone Neck > SEA

c. Fearless KNEW Followed CRUCIFIED Master, Confidently

v. 10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

If this doctrine be lost, then is also the doctrine of truth, life, and salvation, also lost and gone...This is not preaching that gains favor from men and from the world. For the world finds nothing more irritating and intolerable than hearing its wisdom, righteousness, religion, and power condemned...For if we denounce men and all their efforts, it is inevitable that we quickly encounter bitter hatred, persecution, excommunication, condemnation, and execution. Martin Luther

COMMENTARY on what HAPPENED to PAUL and REFORMERS

See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

Galatians 6.11,12

END of Letter Paul takes PEN from the Stenographer / OWN Writing

LARGE Letters – LOUD and CLEAR and FEARLESS GOSPEL

Gospel of What YOU DO – No Persecution > PRAISE from Man

WE are HONORED for our Efforts and Accomplishments!!

Gospel of CROSS > INSULTING, Attacks PRIDE, You LOOK BAD!

So BAD – Nothing you can DO! Utterly Helpless, DESPERATE!

Very Son of God HIMSELF Only One who can SAVE You with Blood

far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

Galatians 6.14

ALL Grace comes from Jesus – All GLORY goes to Him!

Galatians 1

1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. 10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.