

Galatians 1

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**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 brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:
3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,
4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

- 1: What was Paul's qualification and endorsement to be an apostle?
Through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead
Not from men (not by the endorsement of the Church)
Not through man (contrasting and emphasizing that Jesus Christ & God are divine)
- 2: Where was Galatia, and what were a few of its main cities?
A region in central Turkey, south of W.USSR, below Black Sea
Main cities: Lystra, Iconium, Derbe, Pisidian Antioch (contrast Syrian Antioch)
- 3: From where does grace and peace come?
From God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
- 4-5: For what reason(s) did Jesus give Himself for our sins?
1) That He might (but only by our faith in Him) deliver us from this present age
2) It was according to the will of our God and Father

**6 ¶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,
7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.
8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**

- 6: For what reason does Paul marvel regarding the Galatian churches?
Turning away so soon from Him... who called you in the grace of Christ... to a different gospel
Note: Departing from grace (free gift, not by works) IS a different gospel (or, not one at all)
Note: The real problem? They were turning from GOD (ie turning fr grace = turning fr God)!
- 7: What are some in Galatia doing regarding the Gospel?
Pervverting (distorting, misrepresenting, twisting) the Gospel
Note: "which is not another" = it's not really a "gospel (euaggelion = good message)" anymore
From: acceptance of God's gift, To: their own ability (the Law, circumcision; Gal 4:9-21, 6:12-13)
- 8: What consequence should occur if Paul, his group, or an angel from heaven, preached "any other gospel"?
"Let him be accursed (gr: anathema = banned, excommunicated, set aside)"
- 9: What consequence should occur to anyone who preaches "any other gospel"?
"Let him be accursed!"
Note: We really need to make sure that we're preaching the truth!

**10 ¶ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.
11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.
12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- 10: What are 3 characteristics of a bondservant of Christ?
1) Don't seek to persuade (convince, influence, befriend, or to pacify) men
2) Don't seek to persuade God
3) Don't seek to please (to be agreeable with) men
A bondservant is the exclusive servant of his master (in this case, of Christ)
- 11: What is the origin of the gospel that Paul preached?
"Not according to man" – not a man-made philosophy. IOW: from God/Jesus
- 12: How did Paul receive the Gospel, which he preached?
"It came through the revelation of Jesus Christ" – not from man, nor was it taught to him
Note: This is a tall tale! Paul can validate it two ways...
1) By his testimony (following immediately)
2) By the Scriptures (ref Chapter 3+)

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**13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.
14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**

**15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.**

13: What was Paul's motive and goal prior to his conversion?

Motive: Judaism – he was zealous to preserve and protect Judaism from false teaching

Goal: Persecuted “the church of God” a) beyond measure (countless offenses) and b) tried to destroy it

14: What 2 characteristics led Paul to persecute the church?

1) Advance in Judaism = he was smart, on the fast track ‘politically’, and was ‘more righteous (/sinless)’

2) More³ exceedingly² zealous¹ = zealous³ ... for the *traditions*... of my fathers

15: What 2 events of Paul's life are referenced in this verse, and how are they similar?

1) a) Separated from mother's womb b) called through His grace

2) Both relate to birth: a) physical transition from womb b) spiritual transition from the world

16: What was God “pleased (v15)” to do in Paul's life, and what was the result?

Revealed His Son *in* Paul... that he might preach Him among the Gentiles

16-17: After Paul received God's word, what 2 things *didn't* he do, and what 2 things *did* he do?

Didn't: 1) Confer (immediately) with flesh and blood 2) go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles

Note: “Flesh and blood” is typically used in ref to human weakness or ignorance (NIV StudyB)

Important: Demonstrates Paul didn't wait for men's approval when God had already spoken

Did: 1) Went to Arabia (to preach to the Gentiles) 2) Returned to Damascus (Capital of Syria, w/ Gentiles)

Important: Demonstrates his obedience to God regarding the Gospel

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God in me.

18: Where did Paul go three years after his conversion, and who did he see?

To Jerusalem... to see Peter (for only 15 days – brief compared to 3 yrs; he wasn't there to preach)

Ac 9:26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. Note: Barnabas believed!

19: Who else did Paul see?

None of the other apostles except James – perhaps the others hid while Paul tried to ‘join the disciples’

Note: James, the Lord's brother, wasn't one of the original apostles; penned NT letter, ‘James’

20: In your opinion, why would Paul emphasize his truthfulness regarding his Jerusalem visit?

Perhaps because it would be ‘unbelievable’ to think Paul didn't see more of the apostles

21: Following his Jerusalem visit, to where did Paul travel?

The regions (like a state) of Syria and Cilicia (which includes the city of Tarsus; ref Ac 9:30)

22-23: To what degree did the churches in Judea know Paul?

He was unknown by face (v22)

So disconnected with being a disciple of the apostles that the Judeans didn't recognize him

By reputation only: “Formerly persecuted... now preaches the faith (in the Gospel)...” (v23)

Emphasizes: Paul's response to the gospel was a response to God, not to man

24: How did the Judean churches respond to the work of God in Paul?

“They glorified God in me.”

Overview

From this chapter: Which verse leaves the greatest impression, and why?