

Approximately 35 minutes



Galatians Chapter 1 - No Other Gospel

Opening Prayer:

Father God, in the name of Jesus, we thank You for Your Word. We thank You that Your truth does not change. As we open Galatians chapter 1, we ask that You would guard our hearts from error, strengthen us in grace, and help us see clearly the ease and power of the Gospel. Holy Spirit, teach us tonight. Exalt Jesus in this place. In His mighty name we pray, Amen.

Introduction: The Urgency of Galatians

The book of Galatians is one of the most direct and forceful letters Paul ever wrote.

- There is no long introduction.
- No extended words of thanks.

Instead, Paul moves immediately into correction.

👉 **Why?** Why does Paul get straight to the point?

👉 Because the Gospel itself was being attacked.

As we discussed in the background, these churches...likely in Iconium 👉 **eye-KOH-nee-um or (eye-go-knee-um)**, Lystra 👉 **LISS-truh**, and Derbe 👉 **DER-bee** from Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)...had received the Gospel of grace. But **false teachers**, known as **Judaizers**, had come in afterward and told them:

“Faith in Christ is good... but it’s not enough. You must also keep the Law.”

They were mixing grace and works.

And Paul says: **That is not a small error. That is a different gospel.**

Today we will walk verse by verse through Galatians chapter 1.

I. The Divine Origin of the Gospel (Galatians 1:1-5)

Galatians 1:1* (NIV) *Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Right from the beginning, Paul defends his apostleship.

Why?

Because the Judaizers were attacking his authority. If they could discredit Paul, they could discredit his message.

Paul reminds them:

- . He was not appointed by men.
- . He was not trained by the Twelve.
- . He was called directly by the risen Christ.

👉 Remember in Acts chapter 9. Jesus met Paul personally on the road to Damascus.

This matters because the Gospel Paul preached did not originate in Jerusalem. It originated in heaven.

Verse 4 says: **Galatians 1:4** (NIV) **4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,**

That is the Gospel in one sentence.

- . Jesus gave Himself.

- . For our sins.
- . To rescue us.

👉 **Notice:** it says rescue, not assist.

We were not drowning and needed a little help. We were dead in sin and needed **salvation.**

And it says this was:

Vs 4“....according to the will of our God and Father.”

Salvation is God’s plan, not man’s invention.

II. Astonishment at Leaving (Galatians 1:6-9)

Now Paul shifts tone dramatically.

Galatians 1:6(NIV) ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of

Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

The word “**deserting**” carries the idea of military betrayal.

Paul is shocked.

👉 Notice carefully: he does not say they are deserting a doctrine. He says they are deserting the One who called them.

To abandon grace is to abandon Christ.

Verse 7: **“which is really no gospel at all.”**

Galatians 1:7(NIV)⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

The word gospel means “**good news.**”

If salvation depends partly on my performance, that’s not good news.

Then Paul gives one of the strongest warnings in Scripture:

Galatians 1:8(NIV) ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

Paul includes himself.

He includes angels.

Truth is not proven by someone's personality, impressive miracles, or how popular they are. Truth is proven by whether it agrees with the original Gospel of God's grace.

In our day, this is critical.

Many systems mix:

- Grace plus rituals.
- Faith plus law.
- Christ plus works.

Paul says: **That is another gospel.**

👉 And there is no other gospel.

👉 We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

III. A Servant of Christ, Not a Pleaser of Men (Galatians 1:10)

Galatians 1:10(NIV) ¹⁰ Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

The Judaizers were likely saying Paul watered down the Gospel to make it easier for Gentiles.

Paul is saying: If my goal were to be **popular**, I would not preach grace to a Jewish audience or Christ crucified to a Roman one. Those messages were not easy to accept....they were offensive to both cultures.

👉 Grace is offensive to pride.

Legalism **appeals to pride** because it allows us to boast.

Grace **humbles us** because it says: You contributed nothing but the sin that made salvation necessary.

Paul's allegiance was to Christ, not to public opinion.

👉 And that must be true for us today.

IV. The Gospel Came by Revelation (Galatians 1:11-17)

Galatians 1:11(NIV) ¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

Paul reminds them of his past:

Galatians 1:13(NIV) ¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in

Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

Paul wasn't seeking Jesus.

👉 He was hunting Christians.

Yet verse 15 says: **Galatians 1:15-16** (NIV)
¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

That's grace.

God did not save Paul because he was promising.

God saved Paul despite his rebellion.

And notice something beautiful:

Paul did not immediately consult the apostles in Jerusalem.

👉 Why mention that?

👉 Because it proves the Gospel he preached was received directly from Christ.

- It was not secondhand.
- It was not modified.
- It was revealed.

The same Gospel that saves you today was not invented in the first century. It was delivered from heaven.

V. The Transforming Power of Grace (Galatians 1:18-24)

Paul eventually met Peter and James, but his message did not originate with them.

And the churches in Judea knew one thing about Paul:

Galatians 1:23(NIV) ²³ They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”

And what was the result?

Galatians 1:24(NIV) ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

That is the evidence of the true Gospel:

- . It transforms enemies into evangelists.
- . It turns persecutors into preachers.
- . It produces glory for God, not for man.

👉 Legalism produces pride.

👉 Grace produces praise.

Application for Today:

Galatians chapter 1 confronts us with a serious question:

Have we added anything to the Gospel?

👉 Sometimes we may quietly think:

- . “I’m saved, but now it’s up to me to keep myself saved.”

- “God accepts me, but only if I perform well.”
- “God loves me more when I’m doing better.”

But that’s not grace at all.

Grace means:

- Christ finished the work.
- We receive it by **faith**.
- We walk in it by the Spirit.

👉 Legalism leads to bondage.

👉 Grace leads to freedom.

Paul will say later:

Galatians 5:1(NIV) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

But here in chapter 1, he lays the foundation:

There is only one Gospel.

And it comes from heaven.

A Warning and a Comfort:

The warning:

👉 Do not tamper with the Gospel.

The comfort:

👉 Your salvation rests on Christ, not you.

Jesus gave Himself for your sins.

- He rescues.
- He justifies.
- He sustains.

And if He could save Paul, He can save anyone.

Born Again Invitation:

- Maybe you've been trying to earn God's approval.
- Maybe you've believed religion instead of the Gospel.
- Maybe you've added works to grace.

👉 Today, hear this clearly:

You are not saved by promises you make to God.

👉 You are saved by believing the promise God made through Jesus Christ.

- Jesus died for your sins.
- He rose from the dead.
- He offers forgiveness freely.

The Bible says:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (NIV)

To be born again means:

- . You admit you are a sinner.
- . You believe Jesus died and rose for you.
- . You trust Him alone to save you.

👉 If that is your desire today,...to know Jesus Christ personally....than this very moment pray in your heart by faith:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone. Forgive me. Save me. Make me new. I receive Your saving grace today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

👉 If you prayed that **sincerely**, the Bible says you are saved....not because of the words is your prayer, but because of the attitude of your heart and His promise.

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the pure and simple Gospel of Your grace. Protect our hearts from adding human effort to what Christ has already finished. Help us stand firm in the freedom He purchased for us at the cross. May our lives bring You glory, just as the churches praised You for the transformation in Paul's life. Give us courage to share the one true Gospel with boldness and with love.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20