

## Introduction to Galatians

Paul wrote this letter to a group of churches in Galatia. The issue with which Paul deals is the corruption of the gospel of grace. Men called “Judaizers” had come into the church after Paul departed and they were teaching the churches that Paul was not telling them the whole truth of the gospel. These men claimed that Jesus was the Messiah and receiving Jesus was the start of their salvation. However, they claimed that salvation was not complete until believers were circumcised under the law of God. They also belittled Paul, saying he wasn’t a true apostle like the apostles from Jerusalem. They claimed Paul came later and didn’t have the same authority as the apostles who actually walked with Jesus. Paul defends his apostleship and the gospel he preaches. Paul rejects that even the tiniest work can be added to Christ’s gospel.

### Galatians 1:1-10 The Only True Gospel

- I. Paul Defends His Apostleship (1-5)
  - A. Paul is a True Apostle of Christ (1)
    1. Paul did not receive his apostleship from man (1a)
    2. Paul received his apostleship from Jesus Himself (1b)
  - B. Paul Preaches the True Gospel (2-5)
    1. Paul greets the churches of Galatia (2-3)
      - a. Paul mentions the brother with him – he isn’t all alone in his presentation of the Gospel.
      - b. Paul writes to the churches of Galatia – He is writing to multiple churches in the region
        - i. There is huge debate about whether Paul is writing to northern or southern Galatia
        - ii. This debate effects both the date and setting of the letter
    2. Paul Summarizes His Gospel (4-5)
      - a. Jesus gave himself for our sins
      - b. Jesus gave himself to deliver us from the present evil age
      - c. Jesus gave himself according to the Father’s will
- II. Paul Defends the True Gospel (6-10)
  - A. Paul Rebukes Them For Departing from the Gospel (6-7)
    1. Paul is shocked they are turning from God (6)
      - a. He is astonished they are so quickly deserting the one who called them into the grace of Christ
      - b. He is astonished they are turning to a different gospel
        - i. Notice that to turn away from the gospel of grace is to turn away from God Himself
        - ii. Man cannot come to God outside of Grace
          - The issue in Galatians is not that the false teachers were denying Jesus. They said

Jesus was indeed the Messiah but He wasn't enough to save

- They claimed one must receive Jesus and also be circumcised under the law to be saved. They were adding a work to the gospel.

2. Paul exposes those who distort the gospel (7)

a. There is actually no other gospel

- i. To add one thing (even the smallest thing) to the complete work of Christ is to destroy the gospel
- ii. Anything other than God's grace through faith in the death and resurrection of Christ is a false gospel

b. There are some who desire to distort the truth

- i. Those who preach otherwise are actually troubling the brethren with falsehood
- ii. Those who preach otherwise desire to use the gospel for their own ends

B. Paul Condemns Those Preaching a False Gospel (8-10)

1. Anyone who Preaches a Different Gospel is Accursed (8-9)

- a. Paul says that even if He preaches a different gospel, he is accursed
- b. Paul says that even if an angel descends from heaven and preaches a different gospel, it is untrue

2. Anyone seeking to Please men is not a servant of Christ (10)

- a. Paul does not desire to please men over God
- b. Paul doesn't care that men are speaking ill of him and his gospel
- c. Paul is a servant of Christ foremost – Christ would have him preach truth