

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Paul an apostle not from men nor through man, but through Jesus  
As we begin our study of Galatians, I will give a brief introduction
- II) The Book of Acts records that Paul went on at least three missionary journeys  
Ac 13:13-14:23 records on his 1<sup>st</sup> journey Paul planted churches in S Galatia  
This explains why he addresses the letter to **the churches** of Galatia (Turkey)
- III) This makes Galatians the only letter he writes to **more than one church**
- IV) Paul planted the churches around 46 AD and shortly after false teachers entered  
Around 49 AD, Paul wrote this letter to the churches to correct their error  
**BACKGROUND**
- V) The churches were made up of **new believers**, and vulnerable to false teachers  
They were also **Gentiles**, and did not have a strong background in the OT law
- VI) This made them vulnerable to Jewish legalists (Judaizers) who infiltrated  
The Judaizers added to the gospel, mixing grace with the Law of Moses
- VII) They taught that Gentiles must become Jews through circumcision before they  
could become Christians, and could only be righteous if they obeyed the Law of Moses
- VIII) This came to Paul's attention, prompting him to write this letter of correction  
Their error moved Paul to emphasize **salvation by grace by faith**  
Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, and that not  
of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, not of works lest anyone should boast  
**KEY**
- IX) As we will see, they preached a different gospel that produces trouble (V7)  
Why? Because it perverts (corrupts; changes) **the gospel of grace**  
**AS WE WILL SEE**
- X) Paul makes it clear we are **free from the law** because we are saved by faith, alone  
Their blending of religious rules and regulations undermined **the grace of God**  
**THE FACT IS**
- XI) Salvation is a free gift of grace that is received through faith  
Grace makes it clear that salvation and God's blessings are not earned  
Grace clearly reveals God's love and mercy to those who are undeserving
- XII) **It is unmerited favor**, received by faith, that brings us into relationship with God

- I) It is by **His grace** that God provides the power that transforms our lives  
**THE CONCERN**
- II) If the church comes under the influence of **false teaching**, the Spirit is quenched  
This will undermine the preaching of the **gospel of power**  
Ro 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek
- III) This is why Paul emphasizes that the gospel is the **gospel of grace**  
Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law then Christ died in vain  
Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free and do not be entangled again with **a yoke of bondage**
- IV) In this letter Paul will make it clear that **grace changes everything**  
**It has been said**: Galatians embodies the earliest teaching on Christian freedom that separated **Christianity** from **Judaism**
- V) Galatians is a letter emphasizing the beauty of Christian liberty  
It is a book defending **grace** and presenting Jesus as the One who has fulfilled all  
**BEGIN STUDY**
- VI) V1-2 Paul **an apostle** not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ  
This is a typical salutation: Paul, an apostle: he repeats this in 9 of his letters
- VII) Here he begins in this way because **his authority** has been challenged  
He opens the letter by reviewing his ministry credentials
- VIII) The tactic they used was similar to what we see in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians  
These infiltrators had also questioned Paul's credentials  
2 Co 3:1-2 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? **You are our epistle** written in our hearts, known and read by all men
- IX) These false teachers entered the church and brought a different gospel  
To undermine the gospel they brought doubt on Paul's ministry credentials  
**THE TACTIC**
- X) He wasn't one of the first 12 apostles, so he had no credibility  
Because he was not of the original 12, he needed to defend his apostleship

- I) **THIS IS WHY HE WRITES**  
V1 Not **from men** nor **through** man, but **through Jesus Christ** and God the Father
- II) Not **from** (sent) men: The 12 did not appoint, recognize, or send me out  
Not **through** man: No Christian council appointed me an apostle  
**THE FACT IS**
- III) Man cannot do anything but recognize **what God** has already done  
We can be witnesses of a person's calling and recognize it as from God
- IV) V1 But **through Jesus Christ** and God the Father who raised Him from the dead  
The simple fact is God ordains, not man  
1 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled (**empowered**) me,  
because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry
- V) V1 who raised Him from the dead  
Paul preached the risen Christ who fulfilled all of God's righteous demands  
**KEY**
- VI) The fact of Jesus' resurrection establishes his authority  
If Jesus had remained dead in the grave, Paul would have no ministry
- VII) In the resurrection of Jesus, He was revealed to be  
The giving of the Son and **His resurrection** were evidence of God's grace  
It is **this grace** that permeates the message of the gospel of salvation
- VIII) V2 And all the brethren **who are with me**  
There are others who recognize his authority and are included in this salutation
- IX) V3 **Grace** to you and **peace** from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
Grace will always come before peace because, **to have peace** requires grace  
Ro 5:1 Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- X) This would be especially important in light of the legalists intruding in the Church
- XI) V4 Who **gave Himself for our sins** that he might deliver us from this present evil  
How do you receive peace with God? Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins  
To someone trying to earn salvation, this sounded too easy

- I) Paul begins by making it clear: **Jesus gave Himself** for our sins  
This was something that He did on our behalf, without any works on our part  
We did nothing to add to His sacrifice: we can only receive its benefits: **grace**  
**KEY**
- II) Jesus' **voluntary sacrifice** of His own life is the heart of the Gospel  
Jn 10:17-18 The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life --only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from My Father.  
Mt 20:28 The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to **give His life a ransom for many**  
1 Ti 2:6 (Jesus) **gave Himself** a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
- III) V4-5 That He might **deliver us** from this present **evil age**  
That He might **rescue us** from the death system energized by Satan and doomed
- IV) Jesus came to rescue us from a system that only produces death and destruction  
It is a system built on lies and evil, energized by the evil one  
1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.  
**KEY**
- V) We are not removed, but are kept from its sentence of death, and live for Jesus  
We are used to bring others to Jesus  
Jn 17:15-16 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- VI) In 2004 a Tsunami hit Thailand  
There was a video of a man on a roof calling to a man gathering fish  
The man gathering fish did not listen and we can feel like the one calling out
- VII) V6 I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon  
I am amazed at how fast you are turning away from the gospel of grace!

- I) I am astounded at how you can hear a different message and so easily believe it  
I am astonished at how easily and quickly you have deserted God and His grace
- II) It wasn't that he was surprised by what the false teachers were saying and doing  
He was staggered at how quickly and easily the church was open to deception
- III) This should give us insight into how powerful deception truly is
- IV) Outside of Jesus, Paul was the **greatest teacher** in the history of the Church  
Despite this, they readily rejected the truths communicated to them by him
- V) They were being **hoodwinked**, and were drifting from their moorings
- VI) V6 **Turning away**: To fall away or desert from one person or thing to another  
This speaks of military desertion, which was punishable by death  
**THOUGHT**
- VII) They were not being removed by others, but willingly removing themselves  
They were **voluntarily leaving grace** and were pursuing legalism  
**IMPORTANT**
- VIII) To desert the gospel of grace is more than to simply desert a particular doctrine  
It is to desert God Himself  
**NOTICE**
- IX) I marvel that you are turning so soon **from Him** who called you (once for all time)  
**Different gospel**: Herteron; one of a different kind
- X) The Judaizers, invaders, claimed to be Christians  
They claimed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and recognized the necessity  
of His death on the cross--if not, they would not have had a hearing in the Church  
**THEIR ERROR**
- XI) They tried to improve on the gospel, and destroyed grace, **inventing a new one**  
They **added to the gospel** the need to have experiential knowledge of the law  
In adding this, they changed the message of the gospel of grace
- XII) When law is added, grace ceases being grace which constitutes a false gospel
- XIII) V7 Which is not another (allos)  
It is not another of **the same kind**, because it is not a **gospel of grace**

- I) By adding works to salvation, the good news became the bad news
- II) Some cannot fathom that God will forgive every sin, by His grace  
But this is the offer that He makes to us  
Is 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool  
Is 43:25 I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.  
Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.  
1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us **from all unrighteousness**.
- III) We are saved through the wonderful grace of God, totally unmerited  
Ro 3:24 (We are) justified **freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
- IV) V7b There are some **who trouble** you and **want to pervert** the gospel of Christ  
Paul now begins to address the infiltrators
- V) What is the fruit of these false teachers?  
Trouble and the unsettling of their minds through stirring their emotions
- VI) The fruit of their teaching is a perversion of the gospel of Christ  
**Perversion:** To reverse or change to the very opposite  
The fruit of their teaching is a lack of peace with God, and **shaken faith**
- VII) What is the fruit of teaching and receiving the grace of God?  
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control  
Unity, fellowship, a heart of worship, evangelism, a hunger for God’s word
- VIII) V8 But even **if we** or **an angel** from heaven preach any other gospel to you  
We would include not only himself, but any companions with him (V2)
- IX) Notice how he speaks of an angel from heaven giving a different gospel

- I) There are groups that claim that an angel appeared to them  
Mormons speak of Moroni, Muslims speak of Gabriel  
Catholics speak of visitations of Michael  
**I WILL CLOSE WITH AN APPLICATION**
- II) We the church, are in a terrible battle, right now  
Deception is in the church and we are allowing it to infect us
- III) Do you remember what Jesus commanded the Church to do?  
Mt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Amen.
- IV) Jesus said: **Make disciples...**teaching them **to obey all** things I have commanded  
The most basic way to be taught to obey all things is **systematic teaching**  
Sadly, this does not happen in every church service
- V) Paul commanded Timothy to preach the word, for a reason  
2 Ti 4:2-4 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but according to their own desires because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.
- VI) Paul taught us that the systematic teaching of God's word builds our faith  
It provides discernment and encourages spiritual maturity  
Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in **deceitful scheming**
- VII) Because many do not teach the bible, error has crept into the church  
Deception is now rampant, and error is accepted as biblical doctrine
- VIII) There are many professing Christians who do not value bible studies  
This is because they don't value the bible
- IX) A 2022 Gallup Poll: 20% of Americans say the bible is the literal word of God

- I) Only 30% of Protestants say that the Bible is literally true, and 15% of Catholics
- II) This makes it clear that the **Christian faith** is under attack
- III) On top of this many pastors and teachers aren't teaching the whole counsel  
The weakness of the church is the fruit and reflection of its pastors and teachers
- IV) We need to return to the teaching of the full counsel of God
- V) What did Paul say concerning the false teachers?  
False teachers are to be marked, avoided and their teachings rejected  
Ro 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to **the teaching** which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech **they deceive** the hearts of the unsuspecting.
- VI) The message is heretical, and the response is to completely turn away from it
- VII) V9 As we have said before so now I say again if anyone preaches any other  
Other than the one you at one time willingly listened to
- IX) V9 let him be accursed (anathema) A person or thing doomed to destruction  
Let him be left to God's judgment  
Lu 17:2 It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.
- X) As for you, avoid them because they will seduce you into error and steal your joy