

Galatians 1

When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to Myself. Jesus

I. Introduction

Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone
Jesus plus nothing equals Salvation

- Possibly 1st Epistle written by Apostle Paul
- Galatia: Not a city but region unlike Philippi, Ephesus and Colossi [Cities]
- Prominent large area w/many people/many churches recently established
- Written in Ephesus after Paul visited Galatia on Paul's 3rd missionary journey

Paul heard Judaizers were following him from church-to-church **discrediting the message**

- Galatians written to counteract their false message/reinforce truth first taught
- Galatian people: From Gaul [modern France] migrated to Galatia [modern Turkey]
- People w/Celtic background prone to flip-flopping...

The infirmity of the Gauls is they are fickle in their resolves fond of change and not to be trusted [Julius Caesar]

- E.g., Wanted to make Paul a god one minute/stone him to death the next [Acts 14]

Fickle...Inconsistent...Unstable...Easily led Astray

Frank, impetuous, impressible, imminently intelligent, fond of show but extremely inconstant...**the fruit of excessive vanity** [Anonymous]

- Like us surrounded by cults, isms trying to complicate **simplicity found in Christ**
- Stern rebuke no correction on conduct but Doctrine; i.e., **embracing false teaching**
 1. No Commendation
 2. No Praise/Thanksgiving
 3. No Request for prayer
 4. No Mention of standing in Christ
 5. No one w/Paul mentioned by name

Galatians: Outline to Romans but less Technical

Romans comes from the head of Paul...Galatians comes from his heart. [Anonymous]

Galatians could be considered the most intolerant letter Paul writes [NJC]

Galatians takes up controversially what Romans puts systematically [Theologians]

It is the Declaration of Emancipation from legalism of any type [JV McGee]

- **Legalism:** Trying to get to heaven/be righteous by keeping rules
- **Legalist/Cults hate Galatians:** Threatened by teaching of Grace
 1. Condemns self-righteousness

2. Blows to smithereens the satanic power of legalism
3. Sets free/Encourages true believers to stop trying harder/striving... draw closer

- Epistle that moved John Wesley
- **Martin Luther's favorite Epistle:** Freed from the bondage of Roman Catholicism...

This is my epistle...I am wedded to it! [Luther]

Since it has been the backbone and background of every great Spiritual movement and revival that has come in the past 1900 years my friend, it will be the background of any other revival...[McGee]

- **Galatians eats up/spits out Three Required R's of Religion**

1. Rules
2. Regulations
3. Rituals

Grace, Grace, Grace and more Grace.
Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- **Galatian Outline** [JV McGee]

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ch.'s 1-2 Paul's Personal Experience w/ Grace | Declared/Depicted/Defended |
| 2. Ch.'s 3-4 Paul's Doctrinal Instruction about Grace | Salvation by Grace alone |
| 3. Ch.'s 5-6 Paul's Practical Application of Grace | Rubber meets the road in our lives |

- **Chuck Smith:** Why Grace changes Everything:

It is grace, not the law that empowers us to live rightly. Motivated by love fear of condemnation. [NJC]

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus

John 3:17 ...God **did not** send His Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 Peter 2:24 ...[Jesus] bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, **might live for righteousness**

Legalists/Self Righteous/Religious/Proud...hate Grace/teaching of Grace

Why? Loss of power/influence/status/ ability to keep under their thumb w/ man made rules

Tug-of-War: Paul drawing the Galatians to the freedom found in Jesus...Judaizers trying to pulling them back into the bondage of Religion w/ some ready to fall off the cliff... to fall from grace [NJC]

- Galatians first received Paul/message w/Joy... Now they have turned against him...

Galatians 4:16 Have I ... become your enemy **because I tell you the truth?**

II. Greeting

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...

- **Paul and Apostle:** Sent One
- Knocked to ground on way to kill Christians/Sent by Jesus to preach to Gentiles

Acts 9:6 [Paul]... trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Risen Christ to Saul: I've shown you grace...lots...now go tell others

- **Apostolic Criteria:**
 1. Called/Sent by Jesus
 2. Perform Miracles
 3. Seen the risen Christ

1b... 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.

- **Grace:** Gods unmerited favor/undeserved kindness leading to...
- **Peace:** Peace with God/Peace of God

**From both God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ
Both Father and Son gave in order for us to have**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**

Matthew 20:28 ... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom...**

Jesus gave His life to deliver His people from every present evil age...

- **Paul's present evil age** Nero and Roman cruelty
- **Our present evil age** Facebook, Google, Twitter, lies, deceit, oppression, sin

Jesus alone delivers us from this present evil age **to the glorious age to come**
That is the message that infiltrators were perverting/complicated

SUMMARY Greeting: From the Apostle Paul to the Galatians after just leaving them...

Houston...we have a problem

III. One Gospel Do you trust a Him or an IT?

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

- **Marvel?** To wonder or admire [not in good way] turn head like curious dog
- **Galatians 3:1** Foolish Galatians! **Who has bewitched you...?**

How can you turn from a loving He to stone cold IT? From Jesus to an organized Religion?

A different Gospel is not a saving Gospel, therefore not good news and not a Gospel at all for the word Gospel means "Good News". [NJC]

Those who pervert the message of Grace? Hear the worst news imaginable Judgment...

Matthew 25:41 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment...

- **One True Gospel:** Gospel of Grace alone through Faith alone in Jesus alone

...but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- **Some trouble you:**

Jesus is not enough...Devil's words spoken by the tongues of perverse men...

Galatians 5:8 This persuasion does **not come from Him who calls you.**

2 Corinthians 11:4 ... if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted-you may well receive it.

- **Pervert:** lit. Distort

I marvel you are turning from a glorious "Him" that can free you from sin and save your soul to a cold steel "IT" of religion and manmade rules, regulations and bondage that can only damn your self-righteous souls to hell. [NJC]

- What were they saying? Jesus okay/but you must be circumcised/keep the law be saved

Acts 15:1b... Unless you are circumcised according... Moses you cannot be saved.

- What are they saying today when they come to our door?
- Jesus plus _____?

1. Sabbath Keeping
2. Baptism/Words spoken at Baptism
3. Speaking in Tongues
4. Church attendance/Membership
5. Going Door to door
6. Religious system/Activity
7. Keeping the law [no one was ever saved by keeping the Law]

Adding anything to the Cross nullifies the Cross and the Salvation offered by the Cross and is blasphemy/spiritual violence against the God who sent His only begotten Son to die for your sins. [NJC]

- **Paul:** This is how serious I am and how serious this is...

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**.

If anyone/anything preaches anything other than the Gospel we have already preached
Let them be accursed!

- **Accursed:** Gr. Anathema. Person or thing doomed to destruction
- **Gospel Preached:** Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone by Christ alone

Even an angel? Evil is sometimes nice

2 Corinthians 11:13 ...false apostles, deceitful workers, transform themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan transforms himself into an **angel of light**. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers transform themselves into **ministers of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their works [Accursed but nice]

- **Church of Latter-Day Saints:** Mormonism
 1. Not another Christian Sect but a hell bound cult. Why?
 2. **Pervert:** Distort Person/Work of Christ. Brother of Satan/ Jesus not enough.
 3. Approx. 5280 changes to Book of Mormon
 4. Denied black people "priesthood" until 1978. Taught skin color the Mark of Cain
 5. **NOTE:** Joseph Smith had access to the Book of Galatians Ch. 1 **and yet...**

Chose to deny the Word of God and embrace "another Gospel"
Given by so-called "angel Moroni"

- Supposedly visited Joey many occasions. First 11/21/1823
- Doctrine of works. Different Gospel, Different Jesus, Different spirit

Those who choose to follow this false-doctrine of works given by a demon named Moroni are accursed along with their founder; Joseph Smith and originator Satan himself [NJC]

- **Nice families?** Evil is nice. Masquerades as an angel of light
- A Gospel of works is a false gospel. One Gospel...Gospel of Grace

Do not mess with the Word of God. The audacity of those who think they can mess with the Word of God and get away with it is unwise to say the least.

Deuteronomy 4:2 You **shall not add** to the word which I command you, **nor take from it**

Revelation 22:18b... If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophesy, **God shall take away his part in the Book of Life**...from the holy city

- Don't mess with God's Word. Period.
- **So...Why do people mess with God's Word?**
 1. See opportunity to promote self
 2. Pride/Flesh open a door to Satan

Heresy begins with High View of Self...Low view of Truth/Righteousness

2 Thessalonians 2:10b... they did not **receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did **not believe the truth** but had **pleasure in unrighteousness.**

- If you love Jesus you will love Truth

Come out from among them...Organization, ism, Cult, Religion...Leave your it for a Him

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.

- **What if Paul chose to please men instead of God?**

1. The people of Galatia would like him/Avoid conflict...for a while
2. False religion spread like gangrene...person-person/family-family
3. Joy soon turning to sorrow: Slaves to vain religious practices
4. Population in Hell would surge w/citizens of Galatia/surrounding areas

All this because Paul was just trying to be nice

- **Praise God Paul did not shy away from conflict...**

Paul chose to speak the Truth in Love because it was Life/Death

This would **absolutely please** those in Galatia who were seeking Truth...even if it hurt

I am a bondservant of Christ. We are bondservants of Christ

We will do what he says to do...We will say what He tells us to say and let the chips fall

SUMMARY Only One Gospel.

- Paul preached the Gospel in Galatia/People rejoiced in their Salvation

**Grace brought dancing in the streets to the Galatians...to us
Jesus did it all. It is finished. I believed in Him and I am saved/New Creation!**

- The minute he left Legalists flooded the place with false teaching/people bought it

Paul writing from Ephesus to the Galatians made it clear there is only One Gospel...the Gospel that saved him, saved you and me, the Gospel that saved **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**

- There is no religious system/religious activity/no IT that can save a soul.
- Only a "He" Jesus saves Souls. He is the Lover of your Soul

All who have ever been saved or will be saved are saved by...

Grace alone...though Faith alone...by Jesus alone. Period

IV. Paul a True Apostle

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.

Not from man/angel... but from Jesus Christ Himself

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.**

- **Paul persecuted the people** he is now trying to save...

Acts 8:3 [I] ... made havoc of the church, entering every house, dragging off men/women

Acts 9:1 [Paul was] ... breathing **threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord

Acts 22:4 I persecuted this Way **to the death** binding/delivering into prisons both men/women...

- Paul may have been at the Cross of Jesus?
- **Paul oversaw the murder** of the first martyr of the church...Stephen

Acts 7:58 [Preached Gospel] ...and they cast [Stephen] out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a **young man named Saul**. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "**Lord, do not charge them with this sin.**" And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- **Prayer Paul may have heard at the Cross:** Father forgive them for they know not...
- **Prayer Paul needed to hear this day:** Do not charge them? Paul?

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.

There was no better young Jew/no better Legalist/**no better zealot than me**

- **Paul was Legalistic Jew:** A Pharisee following ways of his forefathers
- **Exceedingly Zealous for Tradition**

Emotional/Sympathetic Bondage to the Religion we grew up with...right or wrong

- I was raised a _____ and that's what I'll always be.
- **But is IT true? Can IT save?** Traditions can...
 1. Keep people from seeing the Truth
 2. Keep people from hearing God's voice

Traditions can keep family members entrapped/bound to a system

A system makes them feel included/righteous...but a system that can't save from hell

Jeremiah 9:14 but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts....

- Those bound to religious tradition speak of **an IT not a Him**

1. Catholic Church
2. Watchtower
3. LDS
4. SDA

Romans 10:2 they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not **submitted to the righteousness of God.**

Zeal for God w/out submitting to God is nothing

- Paul was **exceedingly zealous** and IT until he met the Him that saved his soul!

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Previous to this Paul went from city to city imprisoning/torturing/killing God's people
At the same time believing he was doing God's will

John 16:2 [Jesus warned of this time] ... yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he **offers God service.**

Acts 9:3 As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**" ⁵ And he said, "**Who are You, Lord?**" Then the Lord said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** It is hard for you to kick against the goads." ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." ¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a **chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.** ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. ¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. **Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.**

- **Staying with the ones he was on his way to kill? Awkward?**
- Did you know Paul killed Christians?

1. **Leader of Genocide** against any/all who call on Jesus
2. **Shot-caller:** Horrific Ethnic Cleansing/Bloodbath...as Jesus watched/wept

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**

- Saul now Paul would go on to pen 2/3rds of the New Testament
- **His message? Jesus Grace to the Worst of Us...even Gentiles** [Dogs]

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am chief.**

**Do you still think you are beyond saving? Gone too far?
Jesus loves to take the worst of the worst and show His glory through them**

- Paul went on to preach to the Gentiles for the rest of his life
- Preached to Gentile's in Galatia on his 3rd missionary journey

Yet now as then some attempt to disqualify Paul and his Letters

2 Peter 3:14 [Peter of Paul] ... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the **rest of the Scriptures.**

- **Paul had to constantly defend His apostleship/authority**
 1. I received this Gospel from Jesus not man
 2. God called me to reach the Gentiles **with His Salvation**

16b... 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.

- Paul did not go to Jerusalem to get approval from the other Apostles
- Instead went away to be one on One with Jesus **for Three Years**

Received more complete understanding of the Power of Grace from Jesus Himself

- **My Salvation...**
 1. No church for 3-4 years
 2. One on-one w/ God/His Word

No one can tell me God and His Salvation are not real

As Paul I received the message of Grace/Salvation before confirming with any Church

- God called me through His grace to reveal His Son in me to share His grace w/others
- Paul was Receiver of God's Grace...Defender of God's Grace...Martyr for God's Grace

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.**

- Nothing like a good conversion to a reason to praise God
- Fearful at first but eventually **embraced Paul as a brother and true Apostle**

1 Corinthians 15:8 [Risen Jesus seen by other Apostles] Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one **born out of due time**. 9 For I am the **least of the apostles**, who am not **worthy to be called an apostle**, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am

Summary Paul a True Apostle