

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE

"WALK THE LINE"

GALATIANS 1: 1-10

APRIL 7, 2024

FOCAL POINT: This is the first lesson as we walk through the book of Galatians. Galatia was a region in what is now in modern day Turkey (<https://image.slideserve.com/250411/galatians3-ljpg>). Paul had helped start churches in this region and now he was writing them a significant letter.

After Paul had left, false teachers stepped in and began to lead the churches astray from Paul's teachings, so Paul wanted to reestablish truth in their teachings. He wanted them to "hold the line" so they wouldn't get off track again.

What are some *non-negotiables* in your life? What are some things in your life that you refuse to stray from?

TEXT:

Paul, an apostle—not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers 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 to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. 5 To whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from Him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to change the good news about the Messiah. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel other than what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! 9 As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone preaches to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him! 10 For am I now trying to win the favor of people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ.

Paul had to reestablish the line of good, faithful teaching they already had been given. To do this, he had to reestablish:

His credentials (vv. 1-2)

1. Paul was being maligned as not being a “real” apostle. What were the credentials for being an apostle? (*Read Acts 1: 21-26*). How did Paul meet these credentials? Paul’s detractors were saying he was self-appointed. But who did Paul say appointed Him to be an apostle?

2. Why are credentials important? Paul started the church. He taught the people about Jesus first. But after he left some new people came in and started bashing Paul. Why did people in the church believe the false teachers over Paul? Why are people attracted to controversy and lies over the truth? Can you think of any examples of this?

His message (vv. 3-5)

1. Not only had the false teachers slandered Paul’s credentials, but they were also teaching a message contrary to the one he was teaching (*Read Gal. 1: 6-10*). They were the Judaizers. Do you remember who they were (*Read Acts 15: 1*)?

2. How was following the Law of Moses in contradiction to the Gospel message of Jesus? Discuss how v. 4 contradicts the following of the Law of Moses. What is the importance of following God’s instructions? Why don’t our works EARN our way into God’s good favor? What’s the point of them then?

His focus (vv. 6-10)

1. What is the importance of being able to focus? Share some times when you lost your focus and what happened. How did you get it back? *Read v. 6*. How had the Galatian churches lost their focus?

2. Do you think churches, Christians today have lost their focus? What can be done to get it back? What can you personally do to make sure your focus remains in the right place?

3. Close by reading Rom. 1: 16-17. These verses explain why the gospel is important, why it should be focused on, and why it’s worth sharing. How are you doing with your focus?