

## Galatians

*Salvation by grace! Justification by faith! Sanctification by faith!*

The Readers: The churches in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe in South Galatia

Author: The Apostle Paul

Date: Sometime in 49 AD, either before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) or shortly thereafter. It is one of Paul's earliest epistles.

The Occasion: The teaching of the Judaizers

1. They opposed Paul and were teaching another gospel diametrically opposed to the gospel Paul preached.
2. They rejected Paul's apostolic authority.
3. They taught law-works instead of grace-provision for Christian maturity.

The Judaizers – Unsaved Jews who sought to maintain a corrupt form of Judaism and to impose some perverted legal forms of that religion upon the early churches.

They Taught:

1. Salvation by belief in Christ plus good works
2. Maintenance of salvation by good works
3. Acceptance with God by identification with Israel
4. Token assent to the messiahship of Jesus

Key Subjects: The Gospel, Paul's Apostleship, Salvation by faith alone, The Law, Legalism, Christian Liberty, Liberty vs. License, Walking in the Spirit, The Fruit of the Spirit

Key Theme – Habakkuk 2:4, Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but **the righteous will live by his faith.**

Romans – The righteous (1:17) Galatians – Will live (3:11)

Hebrews – By his faith (10:38)

### Galatians 1:1-10

Verses 1-2: Divine origin of Paul's apostleship

- An apostle – Paul claimed equality with The Twelve
- Not by men – No group of men
- Not by man – Humanity was not the source
- Through Jesus Christ and God the Father
- To the churches of Galatia

Verses 3-5: Divine involvement in the gospel

- Grace – Grace is always unearned and unmerited. *God's Riches At Christ's Expense*
- Peace – The effect of the knowledge of what God has done and is doing.

Verses 3-5: Divine involvement in the gospel

- The Person of Christ: the subject of the gospel
- The Lord = the name of His lordship, equivalent of the Old Testament Jehovah
- Jesus = the name of His humanity which means "Jehovah Saves"
- Christ = the name of His messianic deity which means "The Anointed One".

-The Work of Christ: the crux of the gospel

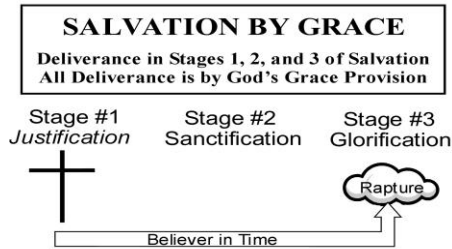
-Christ gave Himself – By His volition, love, grace, mercy, justice, righteousness and all His divine attributes He willingly gave Himself for us.

-For our sins – Christ is our substitute, his death satisfied (propitiated) God's wrath.

-The Purpose of Christ: deliverance

-That He might deliver us – literally "to rescue"

-From this present evil age – now from the effects of and involvement in this evil age; in the future, He will literally deliver us from this world.



-The Motivation of Christ: the will of the Father

-All aspects of the gospel and our deliverance through the gospel are in accord with the will of God who has become our Father through the new birth.

Verses 6-7: Astonishment

- Quickly deserting
- Him who called you by the grace of Christ
- For a different gospel - They were being led astray by a similar-sounding gospel, which was in truth a perversion. Paul's anger is valid: the truth of the gospel was at stake!

Verses 8-9: Seriousness of a different gospel

POINT: The gospel that Paul preached was complete, final, absolute, and hence not to be tampered with!

Verse 10: Paul's responsibility

- Whose favor am I seeking, men or God?
- Who am I trying to please, men or God?

To seek the favor of men by distorting the gospel is to lose one's status as a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.

**Either justification is -**

**by grace alone  
through faith alone  
in Christ alone**

**- or it is by works, our efforts. There is no middle ground!**

**Once the smallest amount of work is introduced grace is no longer grace!**