

The Epistle to the GALATIANS

(Introduction & Chapter 1)

Author: Paul

Date of writing: A.D. 49 or 52

Theme: "Salvation by Grace" or "Justification By Faith"

Key verse: Galatians 2:20- "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Book Divisions: *Personal* (Ch. 1 & 2), *Doctrinal* (Ch. 3 & 4), *Practical* (Ch. 5 & 6).

Chapter by chapter: Ch. 1- BEWARE! Ch. 2- BELIEVE! Ch. 3- BE BLESSED! Ch. 4- BELONG!
Ch. 5- BE FREE! Ch. 6- BE SPIRITUAL!

"CHRISTIAN BEWARE!"

Chapter 1

I) BELIEVE THE GOSPEL! (v1-5)

(v1-3) Paul's glorious greeting!

- P - Paul is a PROCLAIMER! (Of Christ's resurrection!) (v1)
- A - Paul is an ACTIVATOR! - "ACTS" Christianity (v2) - Acts 13:14- 14:23
- U - Paul is a UNITER through grace and peace! (v3)
- L - Paul is a LIBERATOR (v4 - 5) - Acts 26:15-18

(v4-5) "present evil age" - *Kenneth Wuest* writes, "This present age therefore is not content to perish in its own corruption, it seeks to drag all men with it down to its own inevitable destruction"

II) BEWARE OF A DIFFERENT GOSPEL! (v6-9)

(v6a) "Grace" - Salvation has been offered to us strictly through Jesus dying upon the cross, through His blood atonement, not of any works or goodness of ourselves. **Ephesians 2:8-9**- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.. Titus 3:5* - 'not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,' **Romans 11:6** - "And if by grace, then it is no longer of works otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

(v6b-9) "different gospel" - The word *different* is *heteros* in Greek this word is saying that this doctrine is so different it is evil in the heart of it's character, we have an English word heterodoxy, hetero-different, doxy-opinion, or what would be called a false doctrine.

DIFFERENT GOSPELS:

- Works vs. Grace: Cain & Able - **Genesis 4:1-11** (Our adversary (Satan) is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, the Devil literally Cain-Ableizes the grace of God.)
- Self Righteousness vs. Mercy - Jesus teaching of the "*Publican and the Sinner*"- **Luke 18:10-14.**
- Law vs. Love: "The rich young ruler" - **Luke 18:18-27**
- Fabrication vs. Faith: Peter affirms the blood of Christ for atonement - **1 Peter 1:18-19** - *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*
- Churchianity vs. Christianity - Jesus says to the church of Ephesus "*I know your works...Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*" Paul writes in **2 Timothy ch. 3** - "*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves.*"

III) BECOME A PREACHER OF THE TRUE GOSPEL! (v10-24)

(v10-14) "*traditions of my fathers*" - "The oral teachings about OT law commonly known as the "Halakah." This collection of interpretations of the law eventually carried the same authority as, or even greater than, the law (Torah) itself. Its regulations were so hopelessly complex and burdensome that even the most astute rabbinical scholars could not master it by either interpretation or conduct." - John MacArthur

(v15-23) Paul preached the "*faith*" in: **Acts 9:20** - *Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.* **Acts 20:20-21** - "*how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."*" **Acts 20:24** - "*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*"