

I. Intro

A. Text: **Gal. 1:1-10**

¹Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ²and all the brethren who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace 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, ⁵to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But 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.⁹As 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.

¹⁰For 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. (Gal. 1:1-10)

B. Background

1. Setting
2. Spiritual Climate
 - a. Then
 - b. Now

C. Letter's Authority & Origin

1. Apostle of Jesus (**v.1**)

*¹Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), (**Gal.1:1**)*

- a. Indiv. Call and relationship with Jesus

2. United with the brothers (v.2)

¹Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ²and all the brethren who are with me, (Gal.1:1-2)

- a. Not to be excluded from the body

3. Circular Letter

To the churches of Galatia:

- a. Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch

II. Body

A. The Aim of Everything... (v.3-5)

³Grace 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, ⁵to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Gal.1:3-5)

- 1. Grace and peace from God Himself, to you (v.3)

- 2. Glory to God forever and ever (v.5)

- 3. Jesus gave Himself for our sins (v.4)

- a. Yes, we are guilty! Sinners!

- b. Jesus saves to the utmost

- i. From Ourselves

- ii. From the wrath of God

- iii. From this Present Age (time, world, era)

B. It's Astonishing ...

- 1. A different gospel (v.6b)?

⁶I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, (Gal.1:6)

- a. Several gospels

- b. Two perverted gospels that prevail in our time

- i. Grace alone working through us at conversion, but...
 - a) Grace doesn't work through us after conversion.
 - b) Christ is not fulfilling the righteous req. of the law in our lives.
 - c) After conversion, we have license to do as we wish.
- ii. Grace alone working through us at conversion, but...
 - a) Grace is weak, so we're compelled to add our own strength and effort
 - b) Work harder, try harder, do more things to gain the favor of God.

2. Turning from the gospel is turning from Him who called you. (**v.6a**)

*⁶I marvel that you are **turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, (Gal.1:6)***

- a. The gospel (the message of the cross) is foolishness to those who are perishing (**1 Cor. 1:18**)
 - i. But to us it is the power of God
- b. Through the world's wisdom, they couldn't know God. It pleased God that through the foolishness of the preached declaration of the gospel, we would be saved. (**1 Cor. 1:21**)
- c. The gospel message is a stumbling block to those who trust in self.
 - i. Christ crucified is foolishness to common wisdom
 - ii. But Christ crucified to us, is the power of God.
- d. Christian life not just **about** Jesus. It's all him.
 - i. **Col. 3:4:** "*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*"

3. A Different Gospel is not a Gospel at All! (v.7a)

⁶I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷which is not another; (Gal. 1:6-7a)

- a. Anything that doesn't place the blame, the spotlight, the burden, the work... on Christ is NOT good news.
 - i. No one could ever meet the righteous requirement of God.
 - ii. No one could ever do what He's done and what He's doing.

C. Another (Counterfeit) Gospel is Connected to a Curse (v.7b)

*"...but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel of Christ.**" (Gal. 1:7b)*

- 1. Those who promote a gospel of good works are under a curse themselves and seek to pull others in.
 - a. Trouble you
 - b. Desire to pervert and twist the gospel
 - c. Expect twisted and perverted results
- 2. A Different (Counterfeit) gospel only produces...
 - a. A message that removes Christ altogether and replaces Him with a system that demands performance.
 - i. Perform to pay for a debt that we can never fully repay.
 - b. Salvation, but not sanctification
 - i. Saved by grace, but you are responsible for everything after
 - ii. Christine Hoover:

"God moves, pursues, transforms, grows and does every other action that sanctifies us. We submit, repent, obey and receive. He leads; we respond... As He

pursued us for salvation, He pursues us for sanctification and will do the work as we submit ourselves to His good leadership.” (Christine Hoover)

iii. **1 Thess. 5:23-24**

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

c. Pride

- i. We feel good about the checklist and assume that God feels good about our checklist too.
- ii. Boast in our accomplishments instead of boasting in the cross.
- iii. **Gal 6:14:** *“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*
- iv. True gospel leads us back to the cross over and over. No one can ever boast that they played a part in any of it.

d. Self-Condemnation: The polar opposite of pride.

- i. When no results are visible, we blame our lack of effort, faith, ability, etc.

e. Fear

- i. Fear of not being enough.
- ii. Fear of not doing enough.
- iii. Fear of resting in grace. We become afraid to allow ourselves to fall completely on the grace of Christ.
- iv. Fear of giving out to much grace. Creates an atmosphere of judgment.

f. Need for Approval

- i. When we walk in fear, we project our fears on others (bringing them into bondage with us).
- ii. Galatians were zealously courted by Judaizers who wanted the Galatians to be formed in their own image.
- iii. Paul was zealous for the Galatians too, but with a different image in mind.
 - a) **Gal. 4:17-19:** *¹⁷They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,*

III. Conc.: A Perverted Gospel Produces Cursed Results

⁸But 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.⁹As 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.

¹⁰For 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. (Gal. 1:8-9)

A. If anyone preach another gospel, let them be cursed (all by themselves)!

- 1. Even if it were Paul, himself
- 2. Even if it were an angel
