

GALATIANS
Introduction
Galatians 1:1-10
Week 1 September 27, 2026
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Paul gives his background in Acts in his defense before the Jews.

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. Acts 22:3-5 ESV

While on his way to Damascus to arrest some of the agitators Paul met Jesus.

"As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' 11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. Acts 22:6-11 ESV

Paul claims to be one of the apostles.

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 brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:
Galatians 1:1-2 ESV

Paul's enemies brought three distinct charges against Paul.

1. Paul was not an apostle.
2. They accused Paul of not teaching the true gospel.
3. Paul's gospel would lead to loose living.

THE GREETING

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 1:3-5 ESV

The theme is grace and not the Law.

This life is about giving glory and praise to God forever.

Salvation cannot come to us by the Law. The Law condemns us.
Salvation can only come through Jesus Christ.

THE REASON FOR THE LETTER

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-9 ESV

Gospel means 'good news'. It is good news because finally the way to salvation has been discovered and proven. Salvation as it turns out is not earned it is given. It is grace given and received with nothing added.

Only Jesus has provided the way to a reconciled relationship with God.

Paul writes he is to serve Jesus.

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 ESV

We will discover that a key to our freedom is found in our relationship and commitment to Jesus.