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**Galatians 1** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Galatians 1**

### **Galatians 1:1-2**

Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), and all the brothers who are with me, to the churches of Galatia.

† Paul begins by affirming his apostleship as directly from Christ, not from men.

† The resurrection is central to his authority and message.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Romans 4) acknowledged Paul's authority as from Christ, not human origin.

### **Galatians 1:3-5**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

† Christ's sacrifice delivers from the present evil age, showing fulfillment had come.

† The phrase "present evil age" refers to the Old Covenant world under sin and death, now passing away.

† Josephus (Wars 5.10.5) described the corruption of Judea, evidence of the age ready for judgment.

### **Galatians 1:6-7**

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel, which is not just another account, but there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

† The Galatians were turning from grace to a false gospel.

† Judaizers tried to add the Law to the gospel, undermining its truth.

† Tertullian (Against Marcion 5.3) stressed Paul's amazement at how quickly they turned.

### **Galatians 1:8-9**

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, even now I say again, if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

† Paul pronounces an anathema on false teachers, showing the seriousness of preserving the gospel.

- † No heavenly claim or authority can override Christ's gospel.
- † The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 1.16-18) placed curses on covenant breakers, similar in tone to Paul's warning.

### **Galatians 1:10**

For am I now seeking the favor of people, or of God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

- † Paul contrasts pleasing people with serving Christ.
- † His boldness shows true apostleship.
- † Clement of Alexandria (Stromata 4.7) wrote that Paul's loyalty to Christ excluded compromise with men.

### **Galatians 1:11-12**

For I make known to you, brothers and sisters, that the gospel which was preached by me is not of human invention. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

- † The gospel came by revelation, not tradition.
- † Paul underscores divine origin to counter Judaizers.
- † Origen (Commentary on John 5.3) emphasized revelation over human instruction.

### **Galatians 1:13-14**

For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it, and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

- † Paul recalls his zeal in Judaism to highlight grace.
- † His persecution of the church shows the radical change brought by Christ.
- † Josephus (Antiquities 20.9.1) recorded zealots in Judaism

who likewise exceeded their peers in extremism.

### **Galatians 1:15-16**

But when He who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood.

† Paul's call echoes Jeremiah 1:5, chosen before birth.

† His mission was to Gentiles, proof of God's expanding covenant.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.13.1) pointed to Paul's call as God's sovereign plan.

### **Galatians 1:17-18**

Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him for fifteen days.

† Paul's independence from Jerusalem shows his gospel was not second-hand.

† His authority was from Christ, not men.

### **Galatians 1:19-20**

But I did not see another one of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.)

† Paul appeals to God as witness of his truth.

† James, the Lord's brother, is noted as a leader in Jerusalem.

† Hegesippus (as quoted in Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.23) described James as highly esteemed in the early church.

### **Galatians 1:21-23**

Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. I was still

unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which are in Christ, but they only kept hearing, "The man who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."

† Paul's transformation was known by testimony, not by appearance.

† His past persecution magnified God's grace in his conversion.

## **Galatians 1:24**

And they were glorifying God because of me.

† Paul's story brought glory to God, not to himself.

† The transformation of persecutor to preacher testified to divine power.

## **How it applies to us today**

† Galatians 1 warns against turning to another gospel, whether law or tradition.

† The gospel is by revelation from Christ, not man's invention.

† Transformation, like Paul's, is the mark of true grace.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the gospel is complete and unchangeable, and any distortion must be rejected.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

## **Source Index**

† Ignatius, Letter to the Romans 4 - Paul's authority from Christ

† Josephus, Wars 5.10.5 - corruption in Judea

† Tertullian, Against Marcion 5.3 - Paul's amazement at desertion

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 1.16-18 - curses for covenant breakers

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 4.7 - Paul's loyalty to Christ

† Origen, Commentary on John 5.3 - revelation over human teaching

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9.1 - zealots in Judaism

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.13.1 - Paul's sovereign call  
† Hegesippus in Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.23 - James,  
the Lord's brother

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