

## Galatians 1

### Introduction.

- A. One of the earliest letters of Paul.
  - 1. Some say the first.
  - 2. Some say the third, after the Thessalonian letters.
- B. Galatia.
  - 1. A region in the Roman Empire
  - 2. In what is now the central highlands of Turkey around Ankara.
- C. Theme: The Gospel of grace.
- D. Purpose.
  - 1. To confront false teachers who added law to grace.
  - 2. To remind the Galatians that salvation is by grace alone.

### I. Greeting (1-2).

- A. Paul.
  - 1. An apostle.
  - 2. Sent.
    - a. By God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.
    - b. By Jesus the Messiah.
- B. Blessing.
  - 1. Grace and peace.
    - a. From God the Father.
    - b. From Jesus, who gave himself for us by the will of the Father.
  - 2. In five verses, Paul describes God as Father three times.

### II. Paul's Amazement (6-10).

- A. Turning away from the Gospel.
  - 1. Adding law to grace.
  - 2. A perversion of the Gospel and not the Gospel at all.
- B. Anathema.
  - 1. To be accursed by God.
  - 2. No matter what authority is claimed.

C. What is the Gospel?

1. Jesus died for our sins.
2. Jesus rose from the dead.

D. Perversions of the Gospel.

1. The Gnostics.
  - a. Denying the deity of Jesus.
  - b. Denying the human nature of Jesus.
2. The Judaizers adding the requirements of Law to grace.
3. Cults.
  - a. Mormonism.
  - b. Jehovah's Witnesses.
  - c. Christian Science.
  - d. Seventh Day Adventism.
  - e. Progressive Christianity.
4. Anything that adds to or subtracts from the true Gospel.

E. Pleasing men rather than God.

III. Defense of Paul's Message (11-24).

A. The source.

1. Not of human origin.
2. Received from Jesus himself.
3. Paul did not invent Christianity.

B. Testimony.

1. Paul used to be a persecutor of Christians.
2. Zealous for the traditions of the fathers (Mk. 17; Mt. 15).
3. Called to salvation by the grace of God.
4. Went to Arabia, Damascus, and then Jerusalem.

C. "They praised God because of me."

IV. Conclusion.

A. Divine Gospel.

B. Divine calling.

C. Adding anything to grace changes the Gospel.