

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 1:1-10

Lesson 1

The Good News of salvation through faith in Christ is the most important message in the world. This message had changed Paul's life and, through him, the lives of others. But now this message was being attacked, and Paul was out to defend the truth of the Gospel. Some false teachers had invaded the churches of Galatia—churches Paul had founded—and were teaching a different message from that which Paul had taught. As you begin to read Paul's letter to the Galatian Christians, you can tell immediately that something is radically wrong, because he does not open his letter with his usual praise to God and prayer for the saints. He has no time! Paul is about to engage in a battle for the truth of the Gospel and the liberty of the Christian life. False teachers are spreading a false "*gospel*" which is a mixture of Law and grace, and Paul is not going to stand by and do nothing. Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 1:1-10

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 1:1-10 has been divided into two paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Galatians 1:1-5

Galatians 1:6-10

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, grace, and gospel

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 1:1-10. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Paul used the contrasting term *but* in verses 1, 7, and 8. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.

4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 1:1-3

1. What title does Paul use to identify himself in this letter?
 - a. Define the word *apostle*
 - b. Where or from whom does he claim to have received this title? (verse 1b)
 - 1.) Why is it important that those in ministry know this truth?
 - 2.) Why is it important that you relate to those in ministry as called by God?
 - c. Paul began many of his letters referring to himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Why might he have chosen to begin this letter addressing himself as an *apostle*?
2. Galatians 1:2 tells us that this letter is also from *all the brethren who are with Paul*. This seems to indicate a support from these brethren rather than inferring that this letter was a team effort, as Paul used the personal pronoun *I* rather than *we* throughout the letter. Who was this letter written to?
 - a. Galatia is not a city, but is a region comprised of many cities and many churches. Paul was in southern Galatia on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13-14:23); he went through northern Galatia on his second (Acts 16:6) and third (Acts 18:23) missionary journeys. Record one thing that happened during his first missionary journey.

3. Record the greeting Paul wrote in Galatians 1:3.

a. According to verses 1-3, list those involved in the writing of this letter.

1.) Knowing this, how would your attention be perked to read this letter?

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 1:4,5

1. *Grace* and *peace* are ours only because of Jesus. According to verse 4, what did He do for us?

a. Consider the phrase *gave Himself*. The word *gave* could be easily passed over. How do we know Jesus *gave* His life, rather than had it taken from Him? see John 10:18

b. List some of the ways Jesus chose to *give Himself for our sins*.

2. Read the last two phrases of verse 4. For what reason did Jesus *give Himself*?

a. The word *deliver* denotes not a deliverance out of but from the power of this evil world. What do the following verses teach us about this?

John 15:19

John 17:15

Ephesians 2:2

1). Briefly describe the *deliverance* you have experienced since you became a believer.

3. Paul has established, right in the very beginning of this letter, who all the credit goes to. What did he write in verse 5?

a. What does it mean to you when you say "To God be the *glory*"?

1.) What does a life that lives this truth look like?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 1:6-9

1. What key word is repeated four times in these verses?
 - a. In your own words, define the word *gospel*.
 - b. What is the *gospel* that was *preached to you*? See 1 Corinthians 15:3,4
2. Typically, Paul begins his letters with words of praise for his readers or words of encouragement. Yet, in this letter, he excludes the niceties and gets right to the point. What word did he use in verse 6 to describe his reaction?
 - a. What are some synonyms for the word *marvel*?
 - b. At what did Paul *marvel*?
3. Using verses 6-9, record what Paul wrote about the *gospel* some had *turned to* and the fate of those who preached it.
4. Read Jeremiah 2:12-13. In what way is *another gospel* like a *broken cistern*? Note: A *cistern* is a well used to hold water.
5. Galatians 1:7a, in the NIV, has been translated *which is really no gospel at all*. The Judaizers were insisting upon the following of Jewish traditions and law as essential to salvation. Why is that not *a gospel* (good news of salvation)?
6. *Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ* (Galatians 1:7b NIV). How does Acts 15:1 provide an example of this?
 - a. This was the situation in Paul's day. What contemporary example of *another gospel* can you relate that parallels with this dangerous attempt to deceive and draw people away from the *grace* and *gospel of Christ*?

7. Paul uses strong words in Galatians 1:8,9. What does this say to you about anyone who comes to you with *another gospel*?
8. Christians need to beware of those who come and *preach any other gospel... than what they have received*. How will the following verses help us to stay true to the gospel of Christ?

Romans 3:24,28

Ephesians 2:8,9

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 1:10

1. Record the two rhetorical questions Paul asked in Galatians 1:10.
2. *Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men?* (Galatians 1:10a NIV) After his severe statements in Galatians 1:8,9, it is obvious Paul was not guilty of being a man-pleaser, trying to win man's favor. According to 1 Thessalonians 2:4, who was Paul desiring to please?
3. What reason did Paul give for not trying to please man? Galatians 1:10
 - a. What do the following scriptures add to this?

Proverbs 29:25

John 12:42,43

Ephesians 6:6,7
4. Write the last sentence in Galatians 1:10.
 - a. What does this say to you about *pleasing men*?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 1:1-10

1. Paul began this letter by claiming the title of *apostle*. Considering his concern expressed in this letter, why do you think he chose to identify himself as an *apostle* rather than the common expression he used in other letters, bondservant of Jesus Christ?
2. Summarize Paul's concern as expressed in Galatians 1:6-10.
3. Before you accepted Christ, what were some requirements you thought God had in order for a person to be saved?
4. What do you appreciate about the true *gospel*?
5. If someone asked you the question, "How can I please God?", what would your answer be?
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
6. Share one way you have been challenged or encouraged by this lesson.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
for the Jew first and also for the Greek,
- Romans 1:16*

