

Galatians 1 New American Standard Bible

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), ² and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ 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, ⁵ to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.

Distortion of the Gospel

⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel, ⁷ which is not *just* another *account*; but there are some who are disturbing 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 what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! ⁹ 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!

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 Defends His Ministry

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers *and sisters*, that the gospel which was preached by me is not of human invention. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ 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; ¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. ¹⁵ But when He who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ 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

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

1. Paul knew who he was and he knew what God had called him to do. Do you know who you are and what God has called you to do?
2. What is an apostle?
3. He is telling the Church in Galatia the authority he has been given, to teach them God's word and God's ways.
4. Paul was not sent by the agency of men but by the will of God. He was called to preach Jesus to the Gentiles.
5. His credentials are his call, not his intellectual learning.
6. Paul knows his testimony of when Jesus called him on the Damascus Road and told him what to do.

7. He knows that all who were with him on that road can testify of his call to ministry.
8. Why does Paul start most of his letters with the declaration 'grace to you'?
9. Whenever Paul gets the opportunity to tell the story of Jesus and salvation he takes it. How about you? Have you learnt to take the opportunities God gives you to tell the stories of Jesus?
10. What kind of rescue is Paul talking about?
11. Do you think this is a more evil age today, than it was then?
12. Paul identifies a problem with this church; he sees they are abandoning the message of grace.
13. What is the message of grace to you?
14. Access to God with conditions is not the true gospel.
15. Paul says 'not even if angels came and preached a different gospel should we pay attention.'
16. When the flesh gets in the way of grace we are in danger of losing the true gospel.
17. Paul is even quite happy to curse the perpetrator of this crime, the crime of preaching a false gospel.
18. Why would he be so passionately against them?
19. Seeking the favour of mans approval over God's is a very unwise thing to do. You can't serve man and God and hope to stay pure.
20. Paul says 'my gospel preached has come from God not man.'
21. What is the revelation of Jesus Christ that Paul refers to?
22. He says to the Church at Colossae 'you know my story, who I was and what I did, before I received this revelation'.
23. I was an enemy of the Gospel Christians preached.
24. I was out to aggressively destroy this gospel.
25. I was climbing the religious ladder faster than any of my contemporaries.
26. My heart's focus was on my ancestral heritage.
27. God interrupted this journey. What was it like for you? Can you remember when God interrupted your journey of rebellion?
28. Do you believe God has a plan for your life, even as He had a plan for the apostle Paul's, even from the womb?
29. It was God who revealed His Son to Paul – this is the first great revelation of Jesus.
30. Why does Paul say he must preach to the gentiles? Did he have a choice?
31. After Paul's calling he went to the desert of Arabia. Why?
32. Why did he not go up to Jerusalem?
33. For three years Paul was isolated. Why did he come out of isolation?
34. Paul's reputation was confusing the people by his dramatic turn around.
35. And the Church at that time glorified God for Paul's salvation.