

Galatians: Jesus. And That's All.

Introduction: The book of Galatians is an epistle. An epistle is a letter. The Apostle Paul, who planted the church in Galatia, wrote a letter to the people of the church after he left. The reason for writing this letter was that the new Christians were under attack. The attack was not flesh and blood, or disease or persecution. The attack was an idea that would wreck their faith in Jesus. What was this idea? Well, that's why we're studying this book.

Galatians 1

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers and sisters[a] with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

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

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Vs. 1-2 - In this verse Paul calls himself “an apostle.” What is the difference between an apostle and a disciple? What does each word mean?

Why does Paul make a point of calling himself an apostle “sent by Jesus” when the people of the church already know this?

Vs. 3-5 - What two things does Paul bid the Christians in Galatia? How can it be said that those two things are a cause and effect.

Vs. 6-7 - The “niceties” immediately come to an end. Paul gets right down to business. What is the problem?

- What does the word “gospel” mean? What is the Gospel?
- What does the Gospel do? Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
- Is this problem coming from outside the church or within the church? Some say that we should never critique other Christians. Is this true?

Note: how the Gospel of Christ was being “distorted” will be addressed in coming verses and chapters.

Vs. 8-9 - How many Gospels are there? How many Saviors are there?

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- Why is Paul so intense about this? Before answering, consider, what good is a hospital without medicine, doctors, medical equipment etc.?

Vs. 10 - As you read this verse, remember, Paul is responding to very specific criticism of him by those who are infiltrating the church of Galatia. What must they be saying about him?