

GALATIANS

“THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HAS MADE US FREE”

LESSON ONE: Galatians 1:1-24

Books of the Bible

Old Testament

New Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Law

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Gospels

Acts

Church History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

History

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

Letters

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Poetry

Major Prophets

1 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Letters

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Minor Prophets

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

Letters

Prophecy

There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament for a total of 66 books.

Books of the Bible

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Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Law

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

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Church History

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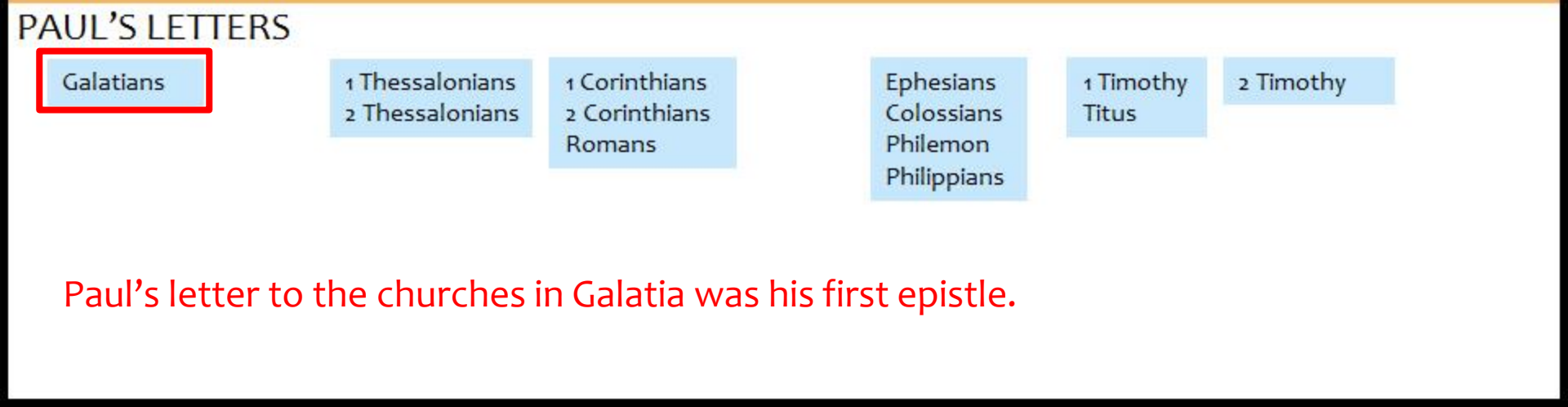
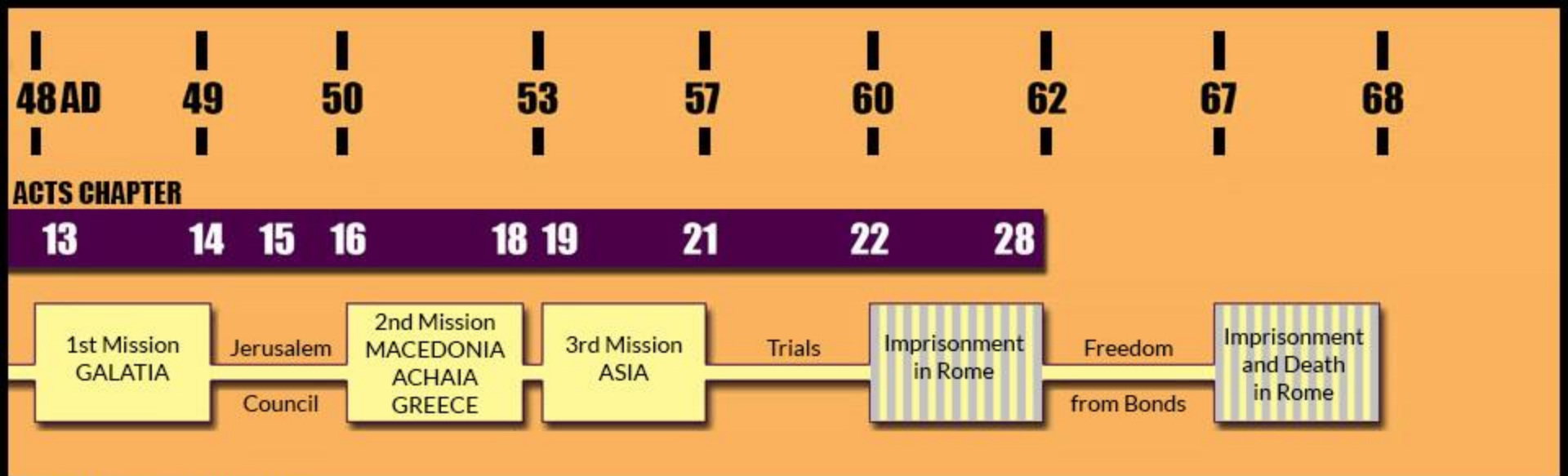
Minor Prophets

1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

Letters

Prophecy

Paul's nine letters to the church give us the fundamentals of Christian doctrine.



Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia was his first epistle.

He wrote this letter after his first mission, and the council in Jerusalem (Acts 13 to 15).



Galatia got its name from the Celtic Gauls who conquered it.



During the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, the Gauls expanded into Northern Italy, leading to the Roman–Gallic wars, and into the Balkans, leading to war with the Greeks. These latter Gauls eventually settled in Anatolia, becoming known as Galatians.



A large percentage of English-speaking peoples, as well as many French people, are of Celtic [Gaulish] origin – that is, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, or Breton.

BELIEVERS' BIBLE COMMENTARY



The cities of Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe were all in this region.

This account from Acts 14 begins in Lystra after Paul healed a man who was a “cripple from his mother’s womb.”

Acts 14:19-22

- ¹⁹ And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
- ²⁰ Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.
- ²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,
- ²² Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Opposition.

Fortitude.

Victory.

Acts 14:19-22

- ¹⁹ And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
- ²⁰ Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.
- ²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,
- ²² Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

“The book of Galatians addresses problems raised by the oppressive theology of certain Jewish legalizers who had caused some of the believers in Galatia to trade their freedom in Christ for bondage to the law.”

“This carefully written polemic* approaches the problem from three directions”

** an aggressive attack on the opinions or principles of another.*

- | | |
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| 1) The Gospel of Grace Defended | Chapters 1 and 2 |
| 2) The Gospel of Grace Explained | Chapters 3 and 4 |
| 3) The Gospel of Grace Applied | Chapters 5 and 6 |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) The Gospel of Grace Defended | Chapters 1 and 2 |
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Paul begins with a spirited defense of his calling, ministry, and message.

Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

He makes a bold declaration of his God-given authority to speak to the church.

Galatians 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul, an apostle,
(not of men, neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;)
- ² And all the brethren which are
with me, unto the churches of
Galatia:



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Paul visited Galatia on each of his three major missions.

Galatians 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul, an apostle,
(not of men, neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;)
- ² And all the brethren which are
with me, **unto the churches of
Galatia:**



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

He identifies himself as **an apostle**
ἀπόστολος (apostolos):
a delegate, messenger,
one sent forth with orders.

John 13:16

The servant is not greater than his lord;
neither **he that is sent** (apostolos)
greater than he that sent him.

Galatians 1:1-2

- ¹ Paul, **an apostle**,
(not of men, neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;)
- ² And all the brethren which are
with me, unto the churches of
Galatia:



He knew the legitimacy of his appointment and that it came from the highest possible authority.

Ephesians 4:11-12

- ¹¹ And he [Jesus] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:



A man knows his gifts, and Paul knew his. When necessary, he would stand up for himself and defend himself against slander – although he knew that *others* should have spoken up for him.

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

¹¹ I am become a fool in glorying;
ye have compelled me:

for I ought to have been
commended of you:

for in nothing am I behind the
very chiefest apostles,
though I be nothing.

¹² Truly the signs of an apostle
were wrought among you in all
patience, in signs, and wonders,
and mighty deeds.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Paul's salutation encapsulates the act of grace that made man's salvation possible.

Galatians 1:3-5

- ³ Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
- ⁴ **Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world,** according to the will of God and our Father:
- ⁵ To whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

This is THE GREAT EXCHANGE:

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Galatians 1:3-5

- ³ Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
- ⁴ **Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world,** according to the will of God and our Father:
- ⁵ To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

The true gospel promotes peace with God, a peace that comes with full acceptance of his grace.

False gospels feed on inner turmoil and by necessity, minimize grace and peace, AND the complete work of Christ.

Galatians 1:3-5

- 3 *Grace be to you and peace* from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
- 5 To whom *be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Until a person is enlightened about grace, he will not have peace with God. He will never feel “good enough” to be saved. But that is the whole point – NO ONE is good enough! Only God is good!

Galatians 1:3-5

- 3 **Grace be to you and peace** from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
- 5 To whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Paul quickly gets to the reason for this letter:

Galatians 1:6-7

- ⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
- ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Throughout this epistle, Paul asserts that the Galatians were preyed upon by what he later calls “the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14).

He does not say they removed themselves. He says they were *removed*. But he is amazed how quickly it occurred.

Galatians 1:6-7

- ⁶ I marvel that **ye are so soon removed from him** that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
- ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

This new form of doctrine was not the gospel at all. It was a perversion of the gospel, a turning away from truth.

Galatians 1:6-7

- ⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
- ⁷ **Which is not another;** but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Paul pulls no punches over the penalty for tampering with the gospel of grace:

Galatians 1:8-9

- ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**
- ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, **let him be accursed.**



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

ἀνάθεμα (anathema)

A person or thing doomed to destruction.

1 Corinthians 16:22

²² If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

μαράνα ἄθα (maranatha): Our Lord is coming

Galatians 1:8-9

- ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**
- ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.



These two themes –
A curse upon those
who deliberately
alter his word, and
the coming of Christ
– are echoed in the
Book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:18-20

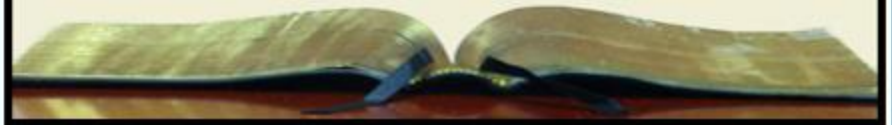
- ¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words
of the prophecy of this book,
If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add
unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of
the book of this prophecy,
God shall take away his part out of the book of life,
and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which
are written in this book.
- ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith,
Surely I come quickly. Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Throughout this opening, Paul shows there was but One he sought to please.

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Throughout this opening, Paul shows there was but One he sought to please.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

First he affirmed that his **MINISTRY** was of God, and that he was “an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;).”

Now he affirms that his **MESSAGE** is equally of God.

Galatians 1:11-12

- ¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.
- ¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

His path to truth could not have been more different from what the apostles in Jerusalem had experienced. They had been with Jesus from his baptism to his ascension. While they were working to increase the church, he was intent on destroying it.

Galatians 1:13-14

- ¹³ For ye have heard of my conversation [way of life] in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:
- ¹⁴ And profited [advanced] in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

In his former life he had championed the traditions of Moses far more than any of the self-proclaimed protectors of Judaism who now infiltrated the churches in Galatia.

Galatians 1:13-14

- ¹³ For ye have heard of my conversation [way of life] in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:
- ¹⁴ And profited [advanced] in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, **being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.**



As a Jew, his credentials had been impeccable.

Philippians 3:5-6

- ⁵ Circumcised the eighth day,
of the stock of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin,
an Hebrew of the Hebrews;
as touching the law,
a Pharisee;
- ⁶ Concerning zeal,
persecuting the church;
touching the righteousness
which is in the law,
blameless.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Further distinguishing himself from the other apostles, he states that after his conversion, he did not seek out their help in understanding the way of Christ. He went to Arabia where he received a supernatural tutelage in the mysteries of God. This part of his story is not told in Acts.

Galatians 1:15-17

- ¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,
- ¹⁶ To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:
- ¹⁷ Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

A key component of the gospel of grace is that God chooses his children before they are born into this world.

Romans 9:11

¹¹ (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Galatians 1:15-17

- ¹⁵ But when it pleased God, **who separated me from my mother's womb**, and called me by his grace,
- ¹⁶ To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:
- ¹⁷ Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Paul's ministry was also foreordained, and set apart from the others.

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him [Ananias], Go thy way: for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Galatians 1:15-17

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

¹⁶ To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen;

immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

¹⁷ Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Years passed before he met the other apostles face to face. Acts 9 testifies of Paul's narrow escape from persecution in Damascus, and how Barnabas brought him to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:23-28

- ²³ And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:
- ²⁴ But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.
- ²⁵ Then the disciples took him by night, and let *him* down by the wall in a basket.
- ²⁶ And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.
- ²⁷ But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.
- ²⁸ And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

Now we learn that this initial meeting occurred 3 years after his conversion.

Galatians 1:18-20

- ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.
- ¹⁹ But other of the apostles saw I none, save [except] James the Lord's brother.
- ²⁰ Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

But even them, Paul purposefully kept himself separate from the work going on in or around Judaea.

Galatians 1:21-24

- ²¹ Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;
- ²² And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:
- ²³ But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.
- ²⁴ And they glorified God in me.



Part 1: The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED

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This concludes Chapter 1

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) The Gospel of Grace Defended | Chapters 1 and 2 |
| 2) The Gospel of Grace Explained | Chapters 3 and 4 |
| 3) The Gospel of Grace Applied | Chapters 5 and 6 |

This section continues in Chapter 2.

Paul: A Man Separated Unto the Gospel of God

an apostle

not of men, neither by man

but by Jesus Christ, and God

Paul: A Man Separated Unto the Gospel of God

an apostle

not of men, neither by man

but by Jesus Christ, and God

a servant

not to please men

but to please God

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his gospel

not taught to him by man

but by the revelation of Jesus

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but by Jesus Christ, and God

a servant

not to please men

but to please God

his gospel

not taught to him by man

but by the revelation of Jesus

before his conversion

not one of Christ's disciples

a persecutor and injurer

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his gospel

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before his conversion

not one of Christ's disciples
not a Jew in name only

a persecutor and injurer
exceeding zealous of traditions

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before his conversion

not one of Christ's disciples
not a Jew in name only

a persecutor and injurer
exceeding zealous of traditions

after his conversion

did not go to Jerusalem

he went to Arabia

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not one of Christ's disciples
not a Jew in name only

a persecutor and injurer
exceeding zealous of traditions

after his conversion

did not go to Jerusalem
not subject to the other apostles

he went to Arabia
led by the Spirit

Paul: A Man Separated Unto the Gospel of God

an apostle

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did not go to Jerusalem
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he went to Arabia
led by the Spirit

his work

not in Judea

in regions of Syria and Cilicia

Paul: A Man Separated Unto the Gospel of God

an apostle

not of men, neither by man

but by Jesus Christ, and God

a servant

not to please men

but to please God

his gospel

not taught to him by man

but by the revelation of Jesus

before his conversion

not one of Christ's disciples
not a Jew in name only

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exceeding zealous of traditions

after his conversion

did not go to Jerusalem
not subject to the other apostles

he went to Arabia
led by the Spirit

his work

not in Judea
not primarily to the Jews

in regions of Syria and Cilicia
to the Gentiles

Key Points from Galatians 1:

Name the overall themes of Galatians as presented in this lesson:

1. Chapters 1 and 2: The Grace of God _____.
2. Chapters 3 and 4: The Grace of God _____.
3. Chapters 5 and 6: The Grace of God _____.

Key Points from Galatians 1:

Name the overall themes of Galatians as presented in this lesson:

1. Chapters 1 and 2: The Grace of God _____.
2. Chapters 3 and 4: The Grace of God _____.
3. Chapters 5 and 6: The Grace of God _____.

Defended, Explained, Applied

Key Points from Galatians 1:

4 By whose authority was Paul an apostle?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

4 By whose authority was Paul an apostle?

He was an apostle, “not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead” (Gal 1:1).

Key Points from Galatians 1:

5 What happened to the Galatians that caused Paul to “marvel”?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

5 What happened to the Galatians that caused Paul to “marvel”?

They were “soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Gal. 1:6).

Key Points from Galatians 1:

- 6 What did Paul say is the penalty for those who “preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached”?

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- 6 What did Paul say is the penalty for those who “preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached”?
“let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8)

Key Points from Galatians 1:

7 How did Paul learn the gospel he preached?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

7 How did Paul learn the gospel he preached?

“I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Gal. 1:12)

Key Points from Galatians 1:

8 After his conversion, where did Paul go to learn the Word of God?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

- 8 After his conversion, where did Paul go to learn the Word of God?
“I went into Arabia” (Gal. 1:17)

Key Points from Galatians 1:

- 9 How long after his conversion did Paul go to Jerusalem and meet Peter and James?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

9 How long after his conversion did Paul go to Jerusalem and meet Peter and James?

“after three years I went up to Jerusalem” (Gal. 1:18).

Key Points from Galatians 1:

- 10 During the early years of his preaching, what was reported about Paul throughout the churches of Judaea?

Key Points from Galatians 1:

10 During the early years of his preaching, what was reported about Paul throughout the churches of Judaea?

“He which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed” (Gal. 1:23).



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