

## GALATIANS INTRODUCTION

The Open Bible calls Galatians the Christian's Declaration of Independence.

Paul directs this letter more specifically than other epistles: He writes to the Churches of Galatia meaning either an ethnic group of people called Galatians or a specific place in Asia Minor (Turkey) where these people of Celtic origin had settled, or both. Galatia was an area rather than a city.

The Galatians were known as being impetuous and fickle. They were the people who tried to make a god out of the Apostle Paul, then tried to stone him to death the very next day.

Unlike the letters to the Corinthians, there is no praise for the recipients of this letter. Also, there is no corrective instructions regarding their moral behavior – The issue that caused the sternness of this communiqué was theological and eternal in nature. Paul had learned that the Judaizers had followed him to the Galatians and had attacked the gospel faith of the Galatians after Paul had left them.

The issue was Salvation by faith! THIS was the gospel Paul had taught the Galatians and the Judaizers were teaching salvation by works, by obedience, by being good enough, religious enough and devout.

What is the problem with a salvation that depends on our goodness  
Calvary Chapel?

**Isaiah 64:6** - But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness's are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

We CANNOT be religious enough, good enough, devout enough or righteous enough to deserve heaven! NO WAY!

Commented [TC1]:

To teach that anybody can be, without the saving grace of Jesus Christ is to send someone into eternity under the false impression that they are safe when – They are not.

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

The enemies of the Gospel arrived in the midst of the Galatians with a lie about salvation and Paul was fighting mad about it. **We would be too!**

**J. Vernon McGee** calls Galatians "Paul's fighting epistle."

**Martin Luther** said of Galatians: "This is MY Epistle. I am wed to it!"

**John Wesley** said of Galatians that he was NOT truly converted until grasping the Gospel of Galatians.

**Chuck Smith:** "The word gospel means good news. And if you tell me that God will forgive me all of my sins and account me righteous, **if** I will simply believe in Jesus Christ, that's good news. But if you tell me that I must then follow certain rules and regulations and be obedient to the law and keep the law of God in order to be righteous, that's not good news because no one's been able to do that."

FROM Corinth where Paul is visiting for the third time , he pens This letter of correction to the churches spread throughout the area called Galatia. He has no compliments for them... In fact, he will "marvel" at how quickly they were willing to give up on grace and return to the law...

## **GREETING**

**Galatians 1:1** Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, (Including himself) but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), **This is important because it was getting silly how certain ministers were claiming to have been ordained by the hands of Apollos, or Peter, Or the Lord Himself. This STILL goes on in some denominations... 😞**

- The Apostle reminds them that he was called while on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) and that his Apostleship was from the Lord.
- At Calvary Chapel we believe that only God can ordain a man to ministry and we only acknowledge the calling by laying hands on him and sending him out.

### THE GREETING CONTINUES

2 and all the brethren who are with me, **(Luke, Titus, and more)** To the churches of Galatia

### THEIR WEAKNESS

3 **Grace** (Charity) to you

- We will read much about grace in Galatians...
- They had given up on grace and it broke Paul's heart... I have had a few friends give up on grace and I pray that they will return to it... But... It IS heartbreaking.

...and peace (Shalom) **(Why grace before peace CCSV? Because there is no peace without grace)** from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

- CCSV, there is SO much good theology in these three verses that we could spend 2022 just digging into it...
  - Theology... Soteriology... Trinity... GRACE... Peace...
  - I encourage you to buy, borrow and copy the tools to dig into these three verses someday soon. Use blueletterbible.com, e-sword.net, and even Google to dig deep. Why? Because Paul introduces himself to the Galatians as one who has had a personal encounter with the Lord... AND... So should each of us, Amen?
  - Paul was not JUST a follower of Jesus... He had made himself a bond servant to the Lord.
  - SO... he will preach that there is NO other Gospel but JESUS!

## NO OTHER GOSPEL

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him **JESUS** who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

- What gospel? Works... Religion... Ritual...
- Beloved... IF being good... being religious... or following religious ritual COULD save you – THEN WHAT THE HECK WAS THE CROSS FOR?
- Listen to these next four words....

7 **which is not another**; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- Anything more... Or anything less that the cross IS PERVERTION!
- THIS is why we keep it simple at Calvary Chapel... We want a Gospel that Rico can understand... As well as brainiacs and deep thinkers like.... You know who you are...

8 **But even if we, or an angel from heaven, (BTW, what angel from heaven is our enemy?)** preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **THAT IS HARSH!**

- Mormonism was started by an angel...
- Islam was started by an angel...
- New age meditation teaches that spirit guides will enlighten you.
- Native American religions use spirits to be directed by.
- Candles... Darkened rooms... Smoke machines... Special effects... Loud Music... Transe like worship leaders...
- If they are more effective than Jesus... watch out!

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, **if anyone** preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **(IE, what Paul preached)** let him be accursed. **(Banned from teaching)**

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a **bondservant** of Christ.

**NLT - Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.**

- **GUZIK** - Paul's idea is *not* "I want to persuade God to my point of view." The idea is God is his *audience*. When Paul speaks, he speaks first to *God*, not to man.
- **Oh WOW...**Imagine how that would change our conversations...

"There have always been preachers who have sought popular acclaim above all else, and there are some still. It is part of fallen human nature that even those charged with the responsibility of proclaiming the gospel can fall into the trap of trying to be popular rather than faithful."

CCSV... Let US be those who speak the truth even when it is not popular to do so. Let us do this so that on the day of judgment we can hear these words...

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...

Amen?