

## Galatians 1:1-10

**Main Point:** The enemy will always find way to use man to pervert, or compromise the Gospel; however, our mission is to preach, proclaim, and practice what's real. When we live the authentic Gospel, the counterfeit is easily exposed.

### Outline

#### Salutation (v. 1-2)

- Paul starts the letter by identifying himself as the role of an apostle. He lets the reader know his authority, and the person who has appointed him. He is not appointed by man, He is appointed by God the Father of Jesus Christ.
- It's important to note that this should be the motive for anyone who serves in the Gospel ministry. God appoints His ambassadors not man.
- The "brothers" refers to fellow Christians who labor for the sake of the Gospel.
- At the end of verse 2, Paul identifies the audience of this letter. Paul was responsible for the churches planted in Galatia, and he sends a letter to help the church grow.

#### Exhortation (v. 3-5)

- Paul starts off his address to them with a customary greeting that he often uses in his other letters in the New Testament.
- In this greeting in particular, he includes a Gospel proclamation in his exhortation.

#### Admonition (v. 6-7a)

- Paul then gets to the main concern that this letter will address: the twisting of the Gospel.
- Paul is "amazed, astonished" about how "quickly" they have turned away from the original message.
- The greek verb "quickly turning away" implies that this act has been done intentionally. It's no accident. The picture here is as if a soldier chose to change sides of the battle while the war is happening.
- What is so appalling about this change is two fold:
  - 1.) How could they turn from the Grace of Christ Jesus?
  - 2.) What other Gospel is there that could replace the real thing?

#### Condemnation (v. 7a-9)

- Paul then zeros in on the culprits of this corruption.
- These men are troubling the church because they are "distorting the truth".
- The Greek verb for "pervert" (*metastreph?*) means "to reverse, to change to the opposite, to twist into something different." In the early church Jerome observed that this word carried the literal meaning of "setting behind what is in front and putting in front what is behind." Applied to Paul's opponents in Galatia, we can say that the gospel they preached implied a reversal of salvation history. (George, T. (1994). *Galatians* (Vol. 30, p. 82). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.)
- Paul condemns in the most emphatic fashion the act of these individuals present something counterfeit in exchange for the real thing.
- He makes the proclamation clear that if anyone presents something other than what has already been taught then they are to be cursed.
- This curse in greek is anathema, which has the meaning of something being offered up. In a negative sense, this refers to someone being brought before the church to be

excommunicated. However, in this case, Paul uses it in a way for something far worse. He implies that these men should face the eternal wrath of God for this grave offense.

- Why is this act so egregious and offensive to Paul? Look at 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. The Gospel isn't an important truth, it's the whole foundation on which our faith stands on. Look at verses 12-19 of that same chapter of 1 Corinthians.

#### Declaration (v. 10)

- Paul declares where his allegiance ultimately lies. He serves God, not man. Essentially, he puts a line in the sand to say that his motivation in ministry is for the audience of One.
- This passage resembles a few other places in scripture where a line is drawn and a choice must be made:
  - Jesus in Matthew 6:24
  - Joshua in Joshua 24:15
  - Elijah in 1 Kings 18:20-21

#### **Application**

- 1.) Know and Own the Gospel for yourself.
- 2.) Surround yourself with others who share your convictions.
- 3.) Share the Gospel every chance you get.

#### Discussion Questions

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the high and 1 being low, how would you rate your own understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does a counterfeit Gospel affect the ministry of the church?
3. Why is it important to be around people who share similar convictions about the Gospel?
4. Why is it so tempting to be a people pleaser? What are the consequences of living for the approval of people?
5. What makes sharing the Gospel so challenging?