

## Galatians 1:1-10 – A Quick Start

The Book of Galatians has been powerfully used by God to change lives. The book delivers a message of freedom from sin, religious legalism and a works mentality through the saving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Jesus was full of grace and truth (John 1:14) so the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of grace. Many have tried, and many still try, to distort and pervert the message of the Gospel. The truth of the Gospel must be defended. We should never compromise on the message of the Gospel. We should never try to make it more palatable to appease people. It does not change with the prevailing culture or morals of the time.

### **Read Galatians 1:1-10.**

We are told, with the first word, that Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians. What do we know about Paul? Paul was not one of the original “twelve” apostles. How did Paul become an apostle? (1:1)

Who were the churches of Galatia? (1:2)

In Paul’s letters to various churches he identified himself sometimes as an apostle, sometimes as a servant and sometimes with nothing but his name. The recipients of the letter were then identified followed by the common greeting of “grace and peace”. This greeting was usually followed by thanksgiving and prayer for the recipients. Paul deviated somewhat from this normal pattern in his letter to the Galatians. How did it differ? (1:1-6)

What essential elements of the Gospel are contained in Galatians 1-5?

What is the significance of verse 5, “to whom be the glory forever and ever”?

In place of the usual thanksgiving for the churches of Galatia, Paul basically said, “I can’t believe what is going on with you people!” Why did Paul feel an urgent need to write this letter? What was happening in the churches? How serious was the problem? (1:6-9)

What were the Galatians giving up? How were they first called? (1:6)

What was the “other” gospel which is not a gospel at all? Was the gospel preached by Paul and this other gospel compatible? (1:6-9)

What is the true Gospel message? How do people try to change the gospel message today? What do they add to the message? What do they take away from the message?

After Paul moved on from the churches of Galatia certain people came in who agitated the new converts and who perverted the gospel preached by Paul. Is perverting the gospel a misdemeanor or a major crime? What is true of those who pervert the gospel? (1:7-9)

Why is salvation based on works so appealing to people? What was one of the things that the serpent promised Eve if she ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (Genesis 3:5)

Verse 10 implies that one of the accusations leveled at Paul was that he only wanted to gain people’s approval at the expense of the truth. What in Paul’s message would leave him open to this kind of accusation? What was Paul’s evidence that he was not a people pleaser?

How should the church respond to people who are perverting the Gospel of Christ?