

Galatians 1:1-24 **Paul the Apostle, his credentials – Galatians turned away**

Paul, an Apostle through Jesus Christ and God the Father

¹ Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), ² and all the brethren who are with me,

To the Churches of Galatia

To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace 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.

Turned away to another gospel

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 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.

Paul's source of the Gospel message

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Paul's first contact with the Apostles in Jerusalem

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

²⁰ (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) ²¹ Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. ²³ But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God in me.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Paul, an Apostle through Jesus Christ and God the Father [Galatians 1:1-2]

- ✠ Paul did not receive his Apostleship from men, but directly from God through Jesus Christ.
- ✧ All the brethren with Paul also send their greetings with this letter.

To the Churches of Galatia

- ✠ The letter is addressed to all the Churches in Galatia.

- ✧ **Galatia** was a roman province in central Asia Minor including the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Derbe, and Lystra where Paul and Barnabas founded Churches.
- ✧ **Galatia** was a larger general Roman province including the smaller provinces of Pisidia, and Lycaonia, It was bounded by Asia on the West, Cappadocia on the East, Pamphylia and Cilicia on the South, and Bithynia and Pontus on the North.
- ✧ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Jesus gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age.
- ✧ This He did according to the Will of our God and Father.
- ✧ To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Turned away to another gospel [Galatians 1:6-10]

- ✧ Paul marvels that the Galatians were so quickly turned from the Gospel of Grace through Jesus Christ.
- ✧ They were turned to a gospel of works, based on Judaism and its man made works traditions brought to them by Jews trying to force the gentiles to conform to the traditions of Judaism. [Acts 15:1-5, 24, 21:18-21, Romans 2:17-29]
- ✧ Jesus had condemned the traditions of Judaism because they voided out the Commandments of God. [Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13]
- ✧ This was the problem that Paul continually encountered from the beginning of his ministry and the Apostles had refuted by letter. [Acts 13:45, 15:1-29, 18:4-6]
- ✧ Paul had originally been at the forefront of the Judaizers when he persecuted the Church. [Acts 7:58, 8:1-3, 9:1-2]
- ✧ Paul was changed when He met the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. [Acts 9:1-31]
- ✧ There are some who want to pervert the gospel of Christ, however their message was not another gospel, but a perversion. [Galatians 1:7]
- ✧ The problem was confirmed even more when Paul arrived in Jerusalem with the gifts from the Gentile Churches and was again confronted with the Judaizers. [Acts 21:15-25]
- ✧ If anyone (man or angel) comes with **another Gospel** besides the Gospel of Grace through Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. [Galatians 1:8-9]
- ✧ Paul desires to please God, not men. If he sought to please men, he would not be a faithful bondservant of Christ. [Galatians 1:10]

Paul's source of the Gospel message [Galatians 1:11-17]

- ✧ Paul's message of the Gospel was not from men, but by direct revelation of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Paul had begun by zealously attempting to destroy the Church through persecution. [Acts 7:58, 8:1-3, 9:1-2]
- ✧ Paul was extremely zealous for the traditions of the Jews and advanced in Judaism beyond many of his contemporaries.
- ✧ When the time came, God through His grace was pleased to call Paul .
- ✧ Paul acknowledged that God was the One who had given him life from the start.
- ✧ God chose to reveal His Son Jesus Christ in Paul, that Paul might preach Jesus among the Gentiles.
- ✧ Paul did not immediately confer with men or go to the Apostles in Jerusalem.
- ✧ Paul first went to Arabia, and then returned to Damascus. [Galatians 1:17, Acts 9:20-22]

Paul's first contact with the Apostles in Jerusalem [Galatians 1:18-19, Acts 9:23-30]

- ✧ After three years Paul went to Jerusalem to see Peter, with whom he remained fifteen days.
- ✧ James the brother of Jesus is the only other Apostle Paul saw at that time.
- ✧ Afterward Paul went to Syria and Cilicia. [Acts 12:24 -- 14:28]
- ✧ The Churches of Judea had not seen Paul face to face, but had heard about him, that "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

- ✧ For that news they glorified God in Paul.
- ✧ It was after Paul had gone to Syria and Cilicia and returned to Antioch of Syria that they sent him with Barnabas to Jerusalem with the question concerning the Gentiles and Judaism. [[Acts 15:1-29](#)]