

## Mini Study - Galatians 1

### God's Good News

#### OBSERVE

READ Galatians 1:1-2

**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 brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

#### DISCUSS

1:1 – Who wrote the letter? How did he become an apostle?

**APOSTLE** – the word apostle (Greek: apostolos) is used in the New Testament in two main ways. The word is used in a general sense to refer to one sent by a church to serve as their messenger / representative (apostolos) e.g., Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25). However, it is also used in a more specific sense to refer to those who were eyewitnesses of the risen Christ but also commissioned directly by Him as His apostle, their words recorded in the New Testament coming with His authority, declaring God's Word to us. It is this type of apostle that Paul was.

1:1 – Why do you think Paul makes clear how he became an apostle?

1:2 – To whom was the letter written?

#### OBSERVE

READ Galatians 1:3-5 and:

- underline every reference to *GRACE*.
- circle every reference to *JESUS* (including pronouns).

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,  
<sup>5</sup>to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1:3 – What is the apostle Paul’s prayer for the churches of Galatia?

1:4 – How does the apostle Paul summarise the Gospel he preached?

1:5 – To whom belongs the glory for our deliverance?

**“Believers have been granted grace to live the life of the age to come in the midst of the present age (Titus 2:12).” – Tom Schreiner**

## **OBSERVE**

READ Galatians 1:6-10 and:

- underline every reference to the *GOSPEL* (including synonyms).
- circle every reference to the phrase *BE ACCURSED*.

<sup>6</sup>I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

<sup>7</sup>not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

<sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

<sup>10</sup>For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

1:6 – What is the apostle Paul astonished about?

1:7 – Why was this happening?

1:7 – Is there any other Gospel?

1:8-9 – What is the apostle Paul’s pronouncement upon those who preach a “gospel” contrary to his?

**ACCURSED** – STRONGS G331 (anathema) – a thing devoted to God without hope of being redeemed, and, if an animal, to be slain [Leviticus 27:28, 29]; therefore, a person or thing doomed to destruction, [Joshua 6:17; [Joshua 7:12], etc.

1:10 – How has the apostle Paul already shown in his letter that he is not trying to please man?

## **REFLECT**

**GOD’S GOOD NEWS.** That was what the apostle Paul was called to proclaim. An apostle not from men nor through men, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, sent to declare the divine message of God’s grace to us in Christ, that he received not from man but through a revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12).

**And what is the Gospel?** The Good News of Christ - who died to bear the punishment for our sins, gloriously raised by the Father declaring His acceptance of His Son’s death on our behalf, in whom we have been delivered from the present evil age, new creations enabled by God’s grace to live the life of the age to come (Galatians 1:1-5).

And it is to this Gospel we must hold fast to save us, for to trust in any other is to be cut off from Christ and the grace of God that is ours in Him (Galatians 1:6-7; 5:4). A matter of eternal life or death that brings words of eternal condemnation from the apostle Paul upon any who would preach a “gospel” contrary to the Gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:8-9).

So, right from the outset of this letter the message is clear – to trust in any other “gospel” is fatal and the warning the apostle Paul gives us against doing so we must take heed of. However, lest we despair, that as those in Christ we can have confidence that we will hold fast to Him alone to save us (Galatians 5:10) and whose lives will be transformed by His grace.

To Him be all the glory for ever and ever. Amen.