

GALATIANS 1

-We will now study God's letter through Paul to the church in Galatia and to all Christians.

-When did Paul and Barnabas teach the Word of God in Galatia?

-During their first missionary journey (Acts 13-14).

-From Antioch in Syria, Paul and Barnabas first took a boat to the island of Cyprus.

-After teaching on the island of Cyprus, they then took another boat to Perga which is in modern day Turkey.

-From Perga, they walked into Galatia where they taught in four cities—Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

-When Paul and Barnabas finished teaching in Derbe, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch, encouraging the new Christians to remain true to their faith in Christ.

-After returning to Antioch in Syria, God through Paul wrote this letter to the churches in Galatia (Acts 14:26).

Let's read Galatians 1:1-2

1-Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a

man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

2-And all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia:

-After Paul and Barnabas left Galatia, it seems that other teachers came into the churches, saying that Paul was not an apostle, and that his teaching was not from God.

-Therefore, God and Paul are helping us to understand that Paul was directly chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father.

-In the Bible, the twelve disciples of Christ, except for Judas, are called apostles.

-The only other men who are called apostles in the Bible are Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, and Paul.

-We know that the Lord Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9).

-Concerning Paul, this is what God said to Ananias:

-“This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

-God Himself spoke to Ananias and told him that He had chosen Paul as an apostle.

-How does Satan try to turn people away from God?

-Satan tries to tell people that the Word of God is not true.

-Satan also tries to tell people that the one who is teaching the Word of God is not teaching the truth.

-How do we know if a teacher is teaching the truth?

-If his teaching is in the Word of God, the Bible.

-This is what the Bereans did when Paul went to Berea to teach:

-“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11).

-The Bereans listened to Paul’s teaching, and compared his teaching with the Bible to make sure that Paul was teaching the truth.

Let’s read Galatians 1:3-5

3-Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

4-who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

5-to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

-It is only by the grace of God that we can believe in Christ and be saved.

-Grace is a gift directly from God to all Christians.

-We read this is Ephesians 2:8:

-“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

-It is also the grace of God that gives us peace.

-If we believe in Christ, He has certainly rescued us from this world of evil.

-Just as God delivered Israel from the slavery and evil in Egypt, God delivers all believers in Christ from the slavery of sin and the evil of this world.

-And if we believe in Christ, it is because of the will of God who has gifted us with our belief.

-This is why we can give glory to our God.

-Because it is His will that we would be born on this earth, and that we would share eternity with Him in heaven.

Let’s read Galatians 1:6-7

6-I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

7-which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

-What was the problem in the churches of Galatia?

-After having believed in Christ, they were turning to a different gospel.

-What is the different gospel that is really no gospel at all?

-That belief in Christ alone is not enough to be saved.

-That God alone cannot save us.

-That people must also add something to be saved.

-There is only one, true gospel.

-What is the one and only true gospel?

-That there is nothing that we can do to save ourselves from death, and that Christ alone can save us from death.

-This is because Christ alone can pay for our sins so that we do not have to die.

-Why can Christ alone pay for our sins so that we do not have to die?

-Because the sacrifice of the death of Christ alone is perfect, and able to pay for the sins of another.

-If we want to pay for our own sins, we must die.

-If we want to pay for another's sins, we cannot.

-A man cannot pay for the sins of another because he himself has sinned, and therefore, God will not accept his imperfect sacrifice for the sins of another.

-Only a sacrifice of death which is perfect can pay for the sins of another.

-Only the sacrifice of the death of the perfect Christ can pay for our sins.

-For false teachers who teach a different gospel, the Word of God speaks very strongly:

Let's read Galatians 1:8-9

8-But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

9-As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

-False teachers are under God's curse.

-False teachers will teach you that it is not God alone who saves you.

-False teachers will also teach you that we must do something ourselves to be saved.

-The false teachers in Galatia were teaching that the people had to be circumcised in order to be saved.

-This is not true.

-The false teachers in Galatia were also teaching that the people had to follow the laws of Moses in order to be saved.

-This is not true.

-Are there false teachers today?

-Very many.

-What do false teachers of today teach?

-Today, false teachers teach that we no longer need the Word of God.

-Today, false teachers also teach that people need to believe their teaching, and not the Word of God.

-Today, false teachers also teach that if you give them money, God will give you money.

-Today, false teachers also teach that if you give them money, they will pray for you, and God will heal you.

Let's read Galatians 1:10

10-Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

-The false teachers in Galatia were also saying this:

-Paul taught you Gentiles that you do not have to obey the law of Moses so that salvation will be easy for you.

-Can anyone obey the law of Moses?

-No.

-Why is it impossible for anyone to obey the law of Moses?

-Because all people have sinned.

-Because all people are born into sin.

-Paul did not teach the Gentiles that they did not have to obey the law of Moses.

-Paul taught the Gentiles that it is impossible for anyone to obey the law of Moses.

-Because no one can obey the law of Moses, we need

Christ to save us.

-A teacher of the Word of God must not teach in order to please people.

-A teacher of the Word of God must simply teach the Word of God as it is written in the Bible.

-If we teach to please people, then our teaching is not from God.

-This is because a true teaching of the Word of God does not please us, but rather hurts us.

-Why does a true teaching of the Word of God hurt us?

-A true teaching of the Word of God hurts us because it teaches us that we cannot save ourselves.

-In our pride, we want to show God that we can save ourselves.

-A true teaching of the Word of God hurts us because it teaches us that there is nothing that we can do to be saved.

-In our pride, we want to show God that we can help Him to save us.

-A true teaching of the Word of God hurts us because it teaches us that only Christ can save us.

-In our pride, we want to show God that we have some good in us which will save us.

-If we teach to please people, then we are not servants of God.

-False teachers teach in order to please people.

-False teachers also teach so that people will think that their teaching is wonderful.

-False teachers also teach so that people will follow them and give them money.

-When Paul taught the Word of God, he did not teach to please the people.

-Here is what Paul said to the Ephesian elders:

20-“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

21-I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus” (Acts 20).

-Paul told the Galatians that his teaching was not from people, but from God alone.

Let's read Galatians 1:11-12

11-I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

12-I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

-When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He taught His twelve disciples as they lived and walked together in Israel.

-Paul did not become a Christian until the Lord Jesus had been raised from the dead and had left for heaven.

-How did Paul learn about the gospel?
-The Lord Jesus taught him.

-When did the Lord Jesus teach Paul?

-The Lord Jesus first revealed Himself to Paul when Paul was on the road to Damascus, and was blinded by the light of Christ.

-It is possible that Christ taught Paul during the three days that he was blind in Damascus.

-It is also possible that Christ taught Paul during his three years in the desert before Paul began his missionary journeys.

-It is the truths of God that Christ gave to Paul that Paul taught to the Galatians and to other people.

-Before Christ revealed Himself to Paul and Paul believed, Paul knew about Christ.

-Paul knew that Christians were no longer following the laws of Moses.

-This is why Paul went to Damascus to put Christians in jail.

-Paul also knew that people were saying that Christ had been crucified, and rose from the dead.

-Even though he knew these truths about Christ, Paul still did not believe in Christ to save him from sin.

-What can we learn from Paul who knew about Christ, yet did not believe in Him until Christ revealed Himself to Paul?

-That knowledge of the truth is not enough to be saved.

-We must believe the truths of God and make them a part of our lives.

-Even Satan knows about God and Christ.

-Yet, even though he knows about God and Christ, is Satan saved?

-No.