

Galatians Chapter 1 Overview

Defense of the True Gospel & Apostolic Authority



Apostolic Greeting (Verses 1–5)

- **Divine Authority:** Paul immediately establishes that his apostleship comes directly from Jesus Christ and God the Father, not from any human agency.
- **The Greeting of Grace:** Offers a foundational blessing of grace and peace to the churches in the region of Galatia.
- **The Purpose of Christ's Sacrifice:** Highlights that Christ gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of God.



Warning Against a False Gospel (Verses 6–10)

- **Paul's Astonishment:** He is shocked by how quickly the Galatians are deserting God for a distorted, counterfeit gospel.
- **The False Teachers:** Judaizers were confusing the believers by teaching that non-Jewish Christians must follow the Law of Moses (e.g., circumcision) to be saved.
- **The Double Curse:** Paul pronounces a severe warning (anathema) on anyone—including himself or an angel—who preaches a different message from salvation by grace alone.
- **Pleasing God Over Man:** Asserts that his fierce stance proves he is seeking the approval of God, not human favor.



Paul's Divine Calling (Verses 11–17)

- **Not of Human Origin:** Paul explicitly states that the gospel he preached was not invented by man, nor was it taught to him by human teachers.
- **Direct Revelation:** The message came to him directly through a profound, personal revelation from Jesus Christ.
- **Set Apart from Birth:** Explains that God set him apart from his mother's womb and called him by His grace to preach Christ among the Gentiles.
- **Immediate Response:** Following his vision, he did not immediately consult with any human advisors or the existing apostles in Jerusalem.



Paul's Radical Transformation (Verses 18–24)

- **His Former Life:** Reminds them of his intense zeal for Jewish traditions, during which he violently persecuted and tried to destroy the church of God.
- **Independent Ministry:** Three years passed before he visited Peter in Jerusalem, staying only 15 days, which confirms his gospel was independent of the Jerusalem leadership.
- **Unknown by Face:** He remained personally unknown to the Judean churches, eliminating any idea that he was acting as their trained emissary.
- **God Glorified:** The churches only heard the report: 'The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they praised God because of him.

