

GALATIANS

leaving legalism to embrace freedom

Galatians 1:1-9 #1 Standing Up for the True Gospel

I. **The Salutation: The Apostle Paul wrote this epistle to a group of local churches, that he established, to clarify the concepts of justification and sanctification – Galatians 1:1-5.**

- A. The Author. As Paul identified himself as the author, he also validated the inherent authority of his message on the basis of his apostleship – Gal. 1:1-2a.
- According to the Scriptures, the office of Apostle was identified by three requirements.
 1. An eyewitness to the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 9:1).
 2. Chosen personally by Christ (Matt. 10:1-2).
 3. Possessed the miraculous sign gifts (2 Cor. 12:12).
 - Unlike the other eleven apostles, Paul's calling was conferred after Jesus' resurrection (cf. Acts 9).
 - Galatians is dated after Paul's first missionary journey (48-49AD, cf. Acts 13-14) while he was ministering in Antioch of Syria.
- B. The Audience. This letter is addressed to the local churches that Paul established at Perga, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Attalia) – Gal. 1:2b.
- C. The Theme. With the recognition that grace and peace are only from God, Paul focused his attention on the two-fold theme of justification and sanctification – Gal. 1:3-5.

II. **The Cause: Paul's epistle is a public reprimand on the Galatian churches that had turned away from the Good News of the True Gospel – Galatians 1:6-9.**

- A. Dumbfounded. Paul rebuked the believers in Galatia for turning away from the true Gospel which was a rejection of God – Gal. 1:6-7.
- B. Unalterable. Any messenger – human or angel – who preaches a gospel that deviates from the Gospel proclaimed by Christ's apostles is subject to divine wrath – Gal. 1:8.
- C. Reminder. As Paul had taught the churches when he established them, anyone who offers a distorted gospel is under God's judgment – Gal. 1:9.

Next Week

Galatians 1:10-24 – #2 Defense of the True Gospel