

# Galatians 1

## No Other Gospel

Introduction

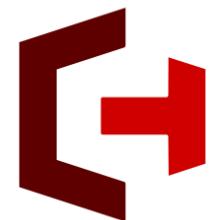
Greeting  
1:1-4

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In Christ Alone

Conclusions



# Galatians 1

## Introduction

Intro to  
Galatians

Timeline

What's in  
Galatians 1?

Key Verses



# Intro to Galatians

- This is likely the earliest of Paul's New Testament letters.
- He wrote it shortly after his first missionary journey.
- In it he deals with false teaching that had infiltrated the churches he and Barnabas had planted in this region.

**Who were the  
Galatians?**

**Paul's First  
Missionary Journey**

**What kind of false  
teaching crept in?**

## Who were the Galatians?

- The terms "Galatia" and "Galatians" were used in two ways in the days of Paul.
- First, they referred to the Roman province.
- Second, to Galatian people - think Gallic or Celtic people - who lived mainly in the north of the province.
- Paul and Barnabas visited the southern area of the province and there planted churches.
- Timothy was from this region.



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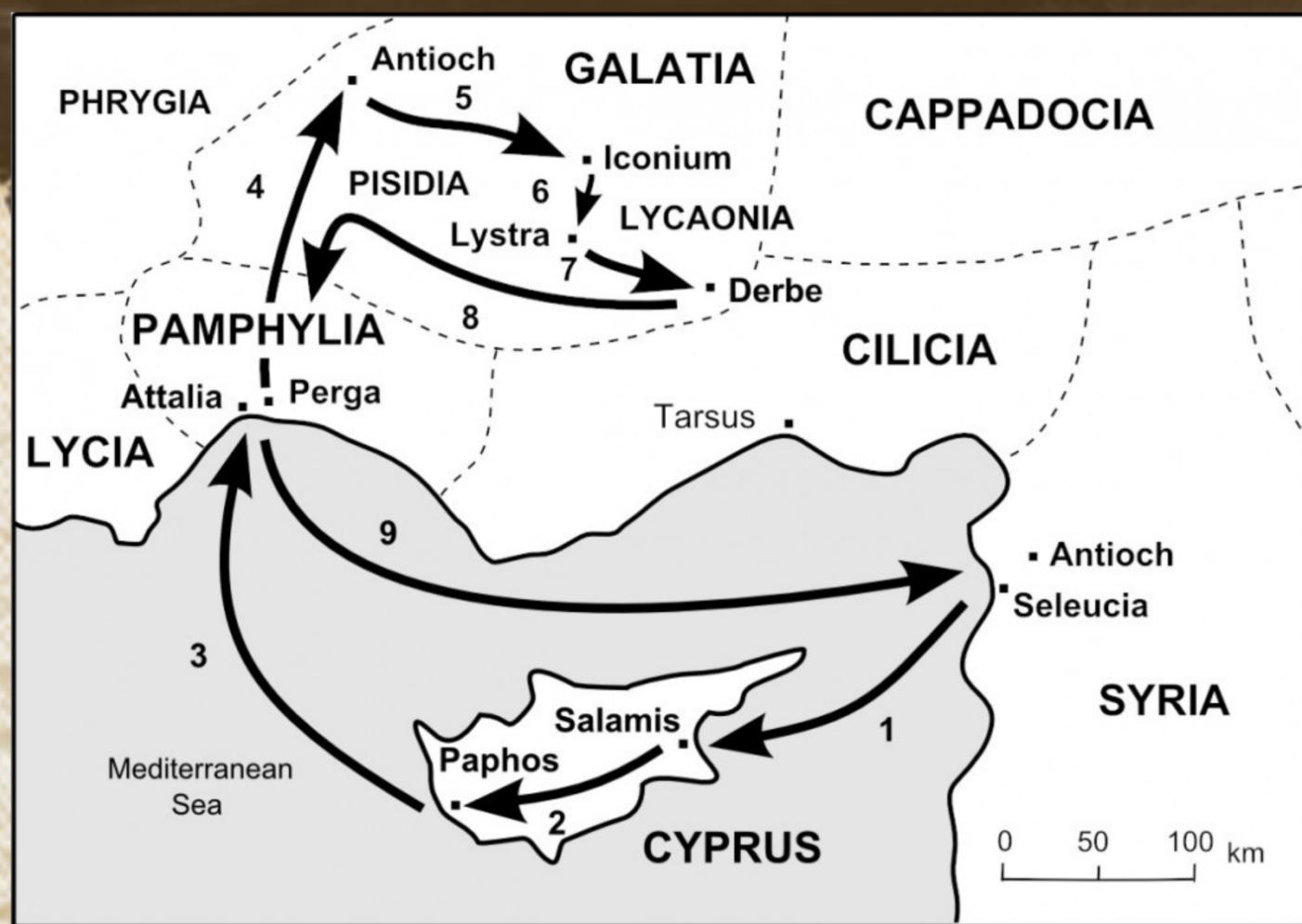
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<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney1/9-pauls-journey-to-cyprus-pamphylia-galatia-/paul-starts-his-1st-missionary-journey/>

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## What kind of false teaching crept in?

- The false teachers in the Galatian churches came to be known as the **Judaizers**.
- Their goal was to convince Gentile converts to adopt Jewish culture and practices as part of their Christian faith.
- Paul had nothing against Jewish practices, and he often took part in them himself.
- His problem was that Gentiles were beginning to believe that works of the Old Testament law could in some way enhance their Christian faith.

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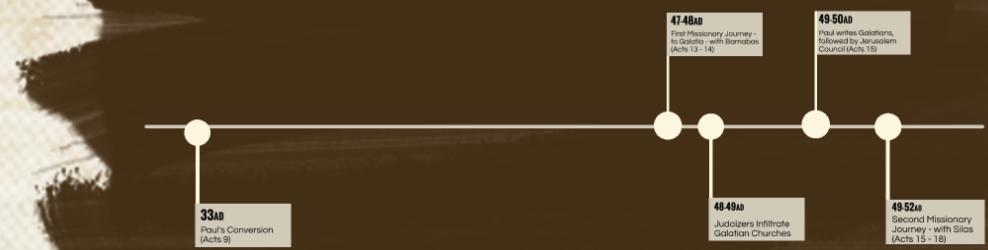
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# Timeline of Galatians



# 33AD

## Paul's Conversion (Acts 9)

# 47-48AD

First Missionary Journey -  
to Galatia - with Barnabas  
(Acts 13 - 14)

**48-49AD**

Judaizers Infiltrate  
Galatian Churches

# 49-50AD

Paul writes Galatians,  
followed by Jerusalem  
Council (Acts 15)

**49-52AD**

Second Missionary  
Journey - with Silas  
(Acts 15 - 18)

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## What's in Galatians 1?

- Galatians 1 easily divides into three parts.
- Paul begins the letter with a short greeting - in which he emphasizes the central role of Christ's work for us.
- He then dives into the problem at hand - that the Galatians are deserting the simplicity of the gospel.
- He goes on to remind them of his calling and early connection with the church in Jerusalem.
- This is relevant because Jewish false teachers might have claimed close ties to the original Jerusalem church.

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## Key Verses: Galatians 1:8-9

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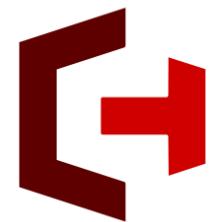
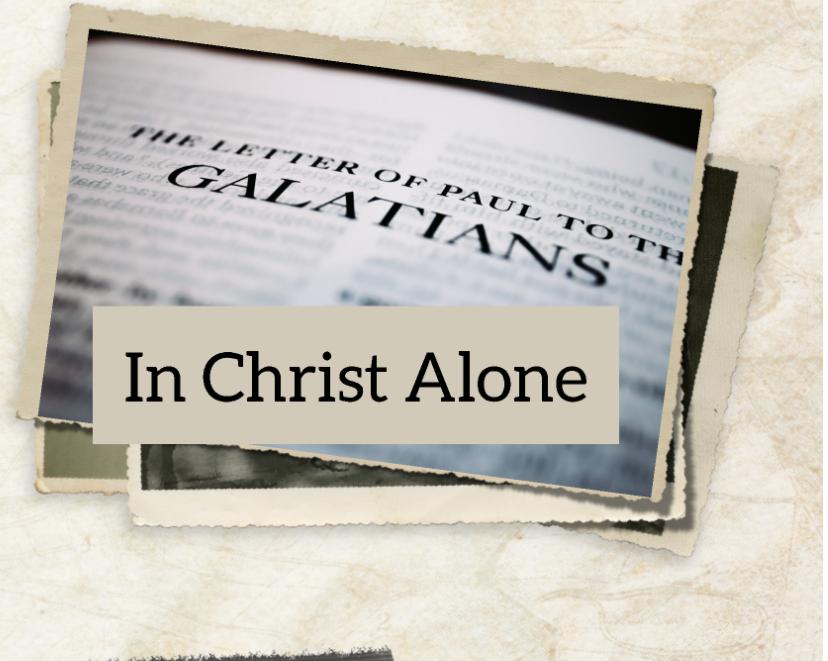
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## Greeting 1:1-4

### **3:1 not from men ... but through Jesus Christ and God the Father**

- Paul starts out by focusing on his divine calling.

### **3:3 Grace to you and peace** This combination appears in almost all of Paul's letters, and those of Peter and John.

Christ's Deity

The Present  
Evil Age

## Christ's Deity

- Notice that Paul was sent as an apostle through Jesus Christ and God the Father.
- Paul also uses this pairing in v.3 as if grace and peace come equally from them both.
- Christ and the Father worked cooperatively to deliver us through Jesus' death according to God the Father's will.
- None of these points by itself would mean that Jesus is fully God.
- Yet they make a convincing case when combined with numerous other similar points throughout the New Testament.

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## The Present Evil Age

- Christ delivered us from our sins by his death.
- Yet he does even more than that.
- This entire evil age is fallen and our deliverance means we are no longer a part of this evil, fallen and sinful world.

• In **Philippians 3:20**, Paul reminds us, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

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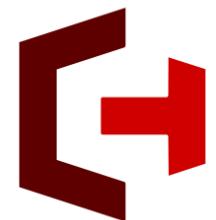
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## No Other Gospel 1:6-10

- Here Paul lays out the main problem that he will deal with in this letter.
- The Galatian churches were departing from the gospel - by turning toward a distorted message.
- This was not merely shifting their theological position or focusing on things in a new way.
- They were leaving the gospel and moving toward an entirely different religion.

**Key Verses**

**God's approval  
or man's?**

Let him be  
accursed

## Key Verses: Galatians 1:8-9

From  
Tony Evans

8 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.  
9 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.

## Let him be accursed

The word "**accursed**" that Paul uses here is **anathema**.

The meaning is something like **dedicated to destruction**.

Paul is not merely saying that he disagrees.

He is implying that the Judaizing teachers are bringing themselves under the total judgment of God.

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To make sure they didn't miss what he said, Paul repeats himself. Those proclaiming a false gospel are cursed (1:9). He wanted the Galatians to stop listening to the false teachers and not to welcome them into their churches. Paul's strong language made it clear that he was not striving to please people. A people-pleaser, after all, will say what people want to hear. But a servant of Christ speaks the truth no matter what people think and no matter the outcome.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher  
and Commentator

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## God's approval or man's?

Paul sees himself as a **servant**, a **doulos**, or **slave** of Christ.

It does not matter much to him what other people think.

He has an assignment to proclaim the gospel and he is going to complete that work.

Elsewhere he calls himself an **ambassador**.

An ambassador represents his home country. He is not required to agree with his hosts, but with the government and people that sent him.

2 Corinthians  
5:20

## 2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

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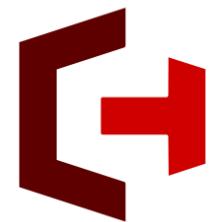
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## Paul's Calling 1:11-24

- The Judaizers were zealous for the law and for the traditions of their fathers.
- They need to remember that Paul was once even more zealous than they are now.
- But that was before Paul met Jesus.
- Since that time Paul has been eagerly proclaiming God's grace - mainly among the Gentiles.

Before I was  
born

Arabia and  
Damascus

Cephas and  
James

## Before I was born

The literal translation of this phrase is "from my mother's womb."

In our culture we often ask children what they want to be when they grow up.

We focus on individual desires and choices.

The way Paul sees it, God had a plan for him while he was still in the womb of his mother.

His job was not to do what he wanted but to fulfill the plan that God had for him.

This impacts at least two areas of thinking:

1. Our understanding of the life of a child while in the womb.
2. Our understanding of calling or vocation.

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## Arabia and Damascus

- **Acts 9** tells us of Paul's conversion on the way to **Damascus**.
- In that telling of the story, it almost seems as if he is in Damascus a short time and then soon returns to **Jerusalem**.
- Probably Luke just didn't feel the **Arabia** episode was vital to his story about Paul.
- Bible teachers will sometimes say that Paul went off to Arabia to spend time alone and hear from God.
- This might be true, but the text does not say this.
- In all likelihood, Paul was preaching among the Gentiles there as he did everywhere else.

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## Cephas and James

- **Cephas** or **Kephas** is an Aramaic name meaning "stone."
- It is the Jewish equivalent of the Greek name **Peter** or **Petros**.
- So Paul met with the Apostle Peter at this time.
- **James** or **Iakobos = Jacob** This is the Jesus' brother, the full son of Joseph and Mary.
- He did not believe at first, but Jesus appeared to him after his resurrection.
- He soon became one of the most important leaders of the Jerusalem church, as we see in Acts.
- He is the author of the New Testament book of James.

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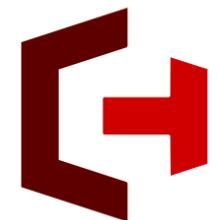
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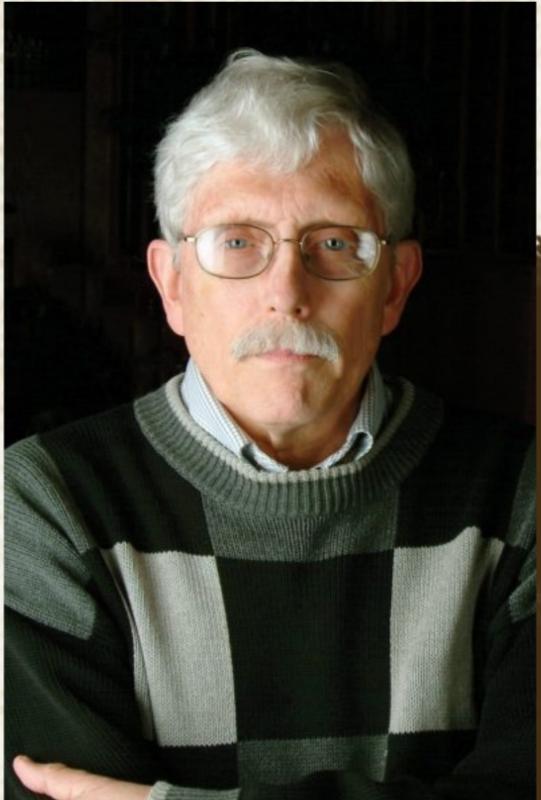
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From John Stott

- In Galatians, Paul makes it clear that works of the law cannot improve upon our faith in Christ alone.
- As the letter continues, he will show us that the law adds nothing to our progress toward maturity in Christ.
- This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit's influence in our hearts and lives - making us holier day by day.

Key Verses

A Final Prayer



**Grant R. Osborne (1942 - 2018)**  
**Trinity Evangelical Divinity School**

The core of this letter is the stability of the true Christian gospel ... When salvation in Christ is claimed to be attainable by works rather than by faith, the gospel is not merely threatened but destroyed.

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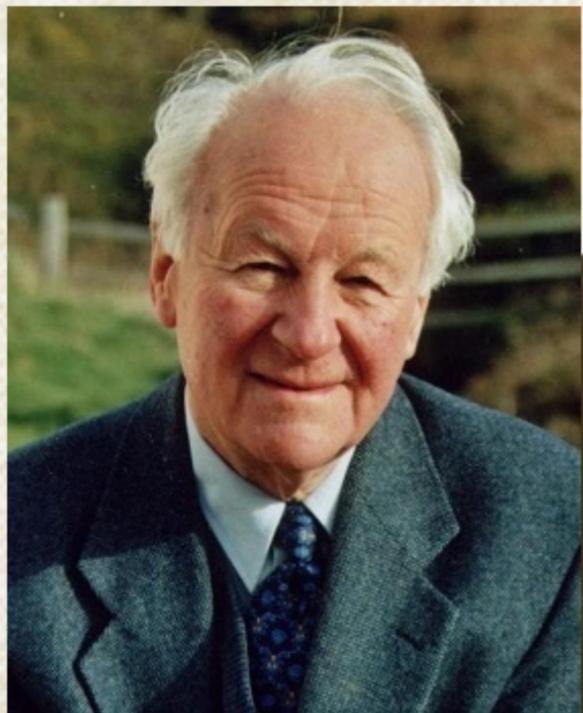
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**John Stott (1921 - 2011)**

Add human merits to the merit of Christ and human works to the work of Christ? God forbid! The work of Christ is a finished work; and the gospel of Christ is a gospel of free grace. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, without any admixture of human works or merits. It is due solely to God's gracious call, and not to any good works of our own.

- John Stott , in *The Message of Galatians: Only One Way*

From Grant Osborne

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## A Final Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,

- Thank you for the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.
- We thank you also that his work is eternally complete.
- If we had to rely upon our own efforts, we would all surely fall short and be condemned in the end.
- Help us now to remain true to the gospel. Let us never add anything to it or take anything from it.
- Cause us to remember that it is all of grace, and that there is no other gospel but the one that proclaims Christ crucified for our sins and risen in glory.
- In his name we pray,
- Amen

From Grant Osborne

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