

Galatians

Lesson 1: Introduction and Galatians 1

What is the gospel? The word gospel simply means “good news.” When we preach the gospel message, we preach the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We then tell people to repent of their sin and place their faith in Christ alone. However, some religions will add traditions such as baptism or good works in order for an individual to be saved. In the region of Galatia, Judaizers were adding their traditions to the gospel. Is it okay to mix these traditions with the gospel message? Let’s dive in and see what Paul says about adding other elements to the gospel.

Introduction

➤ **Read Acts 13:13–14:23**

On Paul’s first missionary journey, he traveled through the region of Galatia establishing churches. Acts 13 and 14 give us some insight into the cities he visited, the churches he established, and the resistance that he was met with.

1. In 13:14, where was Paul when he preached in the synagogue?
2. In 13:45, how did the Jews respond to Paul’s preaching?
3. In 13:51, what was Paul and Barnabas’ response and where did they go?
4. In 14:2, how did the Jews in Iconium respond?
5. In 14:6, where did Paul and Barnabas flee to?
6. In 14:19, who arrived in Lystra to stir up the crowds?



The Region of Galatia

7. In 14:20, where did Paul and Barnabas go?

8. In 14:21, what did Paul and Barnabas do? Would you have done that?

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➤ **Read Galatians 1:1–5**

9. In verses 1–2, how did Paul defend his apostleship? Why is this important to do?

10. In what ways does Paul share the gospel in verses 3–5?

Application: If you were asked to give the gospel to someone right now, what would you tell them?

➤ **Read Galatians 1:6–10**

11. Considering other letters Paul has written, how does his opening in verse 6 differ?
(Hint: see Romans 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2)

12. In verse 6, why is Paul upset with the Galatians?

Application: How do you respond when people mix other teachings with the true message of the gospel? Is that right or wrong? Explain.

13. According to verses 8–9, what is the result of someone who distorts the gospel?

14. In verse 10, what was Paul’s motivation before he became a Christian? What is his motivation now?

Application: What are areas in your life where your actions are motivated by pleasing others? How would those actions change if pleasing God became the motivation?

➤ **Read Galatians 1:11–24**

These verses list out Paul’s credentials as an apostle. He lists this out because of the attacks that came against him from the Judaizers (false teachers).

15. In verses 11–12, how does Paul say he received the message of the gospel?

16. In verses 13–14, what was Paul’s goal as a Pharisee?

17. According to verse 15, when was Paul set apart to be an apostle? When was he called to be an apostle?

Application: How does this truth help you to understand God’s sovereignty?

18. According to verse 16, who did Paul preach the gospel to (see also Acts 13:46)?

19. According to verses 16–17, what did Paul do after his conversion on the road to Damascus?
20. In verse 18, how long was it before Paul met with Peter in Jerusalem?
21. Who did Paul see when he went to Jerusalem? How long did he spend with them?
22. In verse 20, why does Paul have to clarify that he is not lying?
23. In verse 22, who did not know about Paul’s conversion?
24. In verses 23–24, what was the message that spread about Paul? How did the churches respond?

Application: Have you experienced a friend, family member, or an enemy of the gospel come to Christ? How did you react when you heard the news?

Application: List some friends, relatives, or neighbors who need to hear the true message of the gospel. Pray for them this week and ask God for opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with them.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.