

GALATIANS

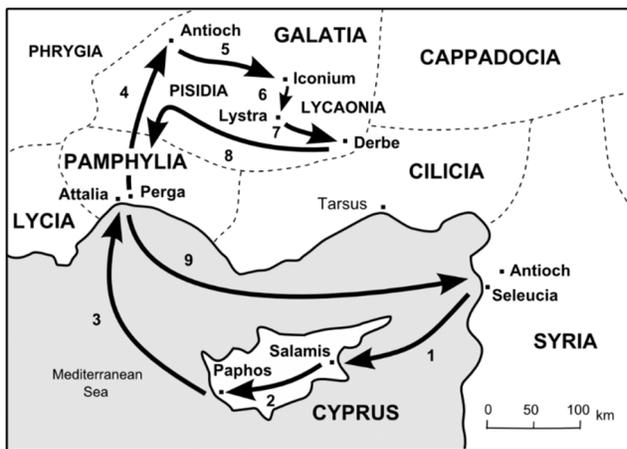
Chapter 1 Bible Study

Day 1 (Week 7)

Background

Author: Paul (Saul of Tarsus): Pharisee, apostle, teacher, church planter, evangelist.

- Paul had three missionary journeys
 - First began in AD 46, when he and Barnabas were commissioned in Antioch, then were “sent to” Cyprus, Pamphylia and Galatia
 - The Maps below are “Paul’s Time”, and “Modern Day” Biblical Lands.



- Upon returning from his first missionary journey Paul had heard that “Judaizers” were telling the new Christians “how to act” (Judaizers were Jewish Christians that believed that new converts had to keep Jewish Laws, especially circumcision and dietary laws – what to eat and not eat). **Salvation thru works.**

Date and Setting

- Galatians was written from Antioch in AD 49

Audience

- Written to the churches in Galatia that were started during Paul’s First Missionary Journey.

Greetings from Paul

¹This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

²All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia. ³May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ⁴Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. ⁵All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

1. Who wrote the book of Galatians, and who did he write it to? (V1,2) _____

2. What group of people (Human Authority) appointed Paul as an Apostle? (V1) _____

3. Why did Jesus give His life for our sins, just as God planned? (V4) _____

There Is Only One Good News

⁶I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News ⁷but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

⁸Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. ⁹I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

¹⁰Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

4. Why were some of the people in the Galatian Churches turning away from God? (2 things from V6,7) _____

5. What does the Bible say will happen to those that preach a different Gospel than the one that the Apostles taught? (V8) _____

NOTE: *To be cursed means ... To have "the disfavor of Jehovah (God)".*

6. What "group of people" was Paul trying to win the approval of, in his writings? (V10) _____

Thoughtful Discussion

- What “other” types of the Gospel Message are being preached today, that is contrary to the Truth found in Scripture? _____
- In what ways have you found yourself being more concerned about winning the approval of a “group of people”, rather than winning the approval of God?

Paul’s Message Comes from Christ

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. ¹² I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³ You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. ¹⁷ Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.

¹⁸ Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰ I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie. ²¹ After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn’t know me personally. ²³ All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!” ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

7. Who taught Paul the Gospel message that he wrote about in his writings (what human source)? (V11-12) _____

8. What was Paul like before he gave his life to Jesus? (3 things from V13,14) _____

9. When did God plan to call Paul into the ministry? (V15) _____

10. What was God's plan for Paul according to verse 16? (V16) _____

11. After Jesus revealed Himself to Paul, where did Paul go to get trained and educated (what Bible College of Church ministry)? (V16b,17) _____

12. What two Apostles did Paul spend time with after his 3 years of praying to Jesus in the desert of Arabia? (V18,19) _____

13. What were the Christians in the Churches saying after they saw the change in Paul's life as a result of Jesus? (V23,24) _____

Thoughtful Discussion

- In what ways do you best receive "direct revelation" from God?
- What were you doing when God "Chose you by His Marvelous Grace", like God chose Paul. Or do you feel like God is still knocking on "Your Door", and you are just not ready to "Open it" yet?

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **first** part of the Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy*), honor God by telling Him how wonderful He is ... God You Are wonderful, loving, forgiving, _____ (Praise Him).

Answer Key

1. Paul wrote Galatians. He wrote it to the Churches in Galatia.
2. No group of people appointed Paul; it was Jesus Christ, and God His Father that appointed him.
3. To rescue us from this evil world in which we live.
4. They were following a different way that pretended to be the Good News. They were being fooled by those who twist the truth.
5. God's curse will fall upon them.
6. None, he wanted the approval of God.
7. No human taught Paul, he received his Gospel message from direct revelation from Jesus Christ. .
8. He violently persecuted God's Church, he did his best to destroy it, he was far ahead of his fellow Jews in the Jewish traditions.
9. Even before he was born.
10. To reveal his Son to him so that he would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.
11. Paul didn't go to any Bible College or Church to get trained and educated, he went to Arabia to pray and seek revelation from Jesus.
12. Peter and James, the brother of Jesus.
13. The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy.