

A Man And His Message

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GALATIANS 1:1-24

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

This situation provides a background for the book of Galatians.

Today many false religions are attempting the same thing. They will attack people who don't believe the way they do and so not keep their man-made rules for salvation.

Like those in Galatia, there are people today who generally don't understand that God is a God of grace and holiness. They don't agree that God gave a specific gospel for our world (John 3:16; Acts 4:12). Paul taught the message of salvation by grace through faith alone. False teachers followed Paul and said that Paul was not a true apostle and that his message of grace salvation was all wrong. They taught that people needed to keep their rules of circumcision and specific commandments of the Mosaic Law in order to be saved.

The irony is that today we still have deceptive teachers preaching a false gospel. The consequence is that those who follow these teachings deny salvation by faith alone. How can we answer them?

Paul wrote a letter to the churches in Galatia to combat this error. The book of Galatians gives us the arguments that the Apostle Paul used to correct the teaching of a false gospel.

Introduction:

Have you ever had anyone doubt your integrity?

Paul was an Apostle called by God, who personally received his message from the risen Jesus Christ. He preached the gospel in Galatia and a number of people trusted Christ. Then Judaizers came and began attacking both the Apostle Paul and his message. They sought to invalidate Paul in order to proclaim their version of the gospel.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Galatians 1:6-10, 11-16 (NASB)

⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

⁷ which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

¹¹ For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I *received* it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased

¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. a. In Galatians 1:6-7, Paul said he was amazed that believers in Galatia, saved by grace through faith, would so quickly succumb to a false gospel. What are some of the reasons believers would chose a false gospel today?

b. What are some basic elements of a false gospel?

2. Galatians 1:12, Paul admits that this message of the true gospel came to him by a direct revelation from the Lord. Can and does God communicate new doctrines by direct revelation, dreams, etc. today?
How can we determine if these “revelations” are truly authentic? (See Deut. 18:20-22)

3. a. Based on Galatians 1:11-16, what are some of the arguments that Paul used to validate his apostleship?

b. Why was this important to the overall message of the book of Galatians?

4. Imagine yourself on trial to prove that you are a Christian. What evidences would you use to prove your case?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
