

**The Epistle to the Galatians**  
**Lesson #2 • Galatians 1:6-12**  
**Paul's Abrupt Change of Attitude**  
**•HANDOUT•**

Galatians 1:6-7 [NLT]• I 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 but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

- Q: In his other letters, when Paul gave criticism he did so using non-abrasive language which sought to be both thought-provoking and amiable. Why has Paul deviated from his usual choice of words and instead uses language that is blunt and challenging?
- Q: What does Paul say about the belief-system the Galatians seemed to be about to embrace?
- Q: What is significant about Paul's statement that it is God, who calls us to Himself through the loving **mercy of Christ**. Wasn't it God's mercy that gave us Christ?
- Q: Why does Paul call these people in Galatia “deserters?”
- Q: Where does Paul lay the blame? Who does he say is responsible for this attack against the Gospel?
- Q: What is it that those who are attacking the Gospel message want to accomplish in Galatia?
- Q: What would be accomplished by combining Christianity and Judaism?

## Paul now pronounces a solemn curse on those who teach a false gospel ...

Galatians 1:8-9 · But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

Q: Why is Paul in such an emotional state over this situation?

Q: Why would Paul go so far as to say that “if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed?”

Q: How could an “angel from heaven” preach a distorted false gospel?

► 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 · For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Q: What challenge does Paul give the Galatians?

Q: Where was Paul's love and compassion?

Q: What does it mean to be “eternally condemned?”

Q: Paul repeats the curse, probably for the sake of emphasis. But in the restatement, there are the three small changes. How do these small changes alter or enhance our understanding?

Verse 8: Original Statement:	Verse 9: In the Restatement:
1. The one we preached	1. What you accepted
2. We or an angel from heaven	2. Anybody
3. "If" we should preach	3. "Let him be..."

[1.]

[2.]

[3.]

**Having established why his has written this letter,  
Paul now asks an important question ...**

Galatians 1:10 · Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Q: Why would Paul even broach the question about whom he was trying to please with his preaching?

Q: Is Paul contradicting himself in this regard in 1 Corinthians 9?

► 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 · Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

Q: What is Paul's ultimate argument on the issue of him being a man-pleaser?

**The next two verses represent Paul's first important thesis of this letter ...**

Galatians 1:11-12 • I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Q: What is significant about Paul opening this passage with “I want you to know, brothers?”

Q: What is the origin, the source of the Gospel Paul preached?

Q: Paul denies what three possible sources for his teaching?

In the next passage Paul shares his early years and his conversion.  
This is where we will pick up our study next time ...



Next Time • Lesson #3

**~~ Saul Who Became Paul ~~**

Galatians 1:13-24

