

# GALATIANS

## Observations From Chapter One

“One way to deny the truthfulness of a message is to deny the authority of the one who gives it.”

Charges against the Apostle Paul:

- A. He was not a true apostle.
- B. Paul’s message was not valid.
- C. Some Judaizers were successful in convincing Galilean church members that Paul was self-appointed with no divine commission.

Paul’s Response

- A. Summary of his authority (his right to speak) – called by God
- B. Summary of his message (the truth he speaks) – Jesus alone
- C. Summary of his motive (his reason for speaking) – his relationship to his hearers

Apostle – one sent with a commission (envoy, ambassador, or messenger)

A. Term early on was used to refer to the original twelve chosen at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and were set aside to lay the foundation of the early church. They were also given power to perform healings and cast out demons as verifying signs of their divine authority.

B. The term was also used of men like Barnabas (Acts 14:14), Silas and Timothy (1Thess.1:1; 2:6) and other leaders referred to as messengers of

the churches.

C. The TWELVE and Paul were referred to as Jesus' Apostles.

D. Apostles of Jesus spoke to the church, not on behalf of the church.

Church

doctrine was derived from the Apostles who received it from God.

Otherwise, we simply have information from mere men.

E. Here we learn that "all scripture is inspired by God (2Timothy 3:16). The words of the apostles are as inspired as the words of Jesus!

Verse 3: Grace and Peace – Paul often combined the ideas of grace and peace when opening a letter to the churches. Salvation of course is by grace alone and with this great gift (Galatians 1:6) comes peace with God (Romans 5:1).

Verse 4: Gave Himself for our sins – We find the willing sacrifice of Jesus Himself for our sins to be the center or heart of the Gospel. Salvation cannot be obtained by one's personal efforts to rid themselves of sin. Only by trusting God to forgive sin through the work of Christ can salvation be obtained. The statement "who gave Himself for our sins" affirms that the purpose of Christ coming was to be a sin offering.

Purpose of the Gospel (Good News) – deliver or set free from sin's bondage those who believe in Christ – deliverance from this present age (to rescue from danger)

Age – not a specific period of time but a satanic world system that has dominated since the fall of man and unfortunately will dominate until the return of Christ – Though we are in this world, believers are not of this world – having been delivered/rescued at the moment of your salvation.

According to the will of our God and Father – the source of our salvation is God our Father, Who in His grace, "so loved the world that He gave His

only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethesmane was that the cup might be removed if possible. Though all things are possible with God, His will remains sovereign. Without the death of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, humanity would have been lost. It was the will of the Father to save humanity which meant that Jesus had to die to fulfill the will of the Father. His supreme purpose was to glorify His Lord, even as we believers are called to do everything "to the glory of God."

Amen – "an expression of affirmation fitting the worthiness of God to receive glory for the wondrous provision of eternal and gracious salvation."

Alan Cole – an old-fashioned Chinese-speaking christian says at the end of a prayer the words "shing sam shoh uen meaning "with all my heart this is what I wish."

**WHAT A GIFT WE HAVE IN JESUS!!!**