



Week 1: Galatians 1:1-9

GOSPEL TREASURE

A troubling situation has arisen in the churches of Galatia. It strikes at the very heart of the gospel message – the message Paul preached with such passion, the message he shared with them personally. Someone has emerged, spreading ideas that contradict the core of this gospel. Paul, determined to set things right, takes pen to paper. Here, he begins by clarifying a crucial point: any gospel that differs from the one he delivered is simply not the true gospel.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 1:1-9

¹ Paul, an apostle-- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- ² and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble 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 the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

³ **distort** – the sense behind this word is of a change of direction, or a turning away.

¹ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ² warfare – or difficulty.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 1

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of anything that is best enjoyed as it is, and gets ruined when something is added to it?
2. How do you test what you hear from public figures, whether that be public leaders, pastors, or even Christian teachers?

DIVING DEEPER

3. As a group, work to create a definition for the term "gospel."
4. What term does Paul use to describe himself in verse 1? What tone does this set for what follows?
5. What does Paul stress about the nature of his own role in the church? Why is this so important?
6. As Paul begins his letter how would you describe his mood? What reasons do you find from within these verses for your answer?
7. Make an effort to place Galatians 1:6 in your own words.
8. In verse 6, the Greek word for "deserting" means "to transfer one's allegiance, and it was often used for soldiers in the Roman army who revolted or deserted their posts. How is it possible to "desert" to a so-called "different gospel"? What else are you deserting if you desert the gospel, according to this verse.

9. Can you think of specific ways in which the authentic gospel is revised in our culture today?
10. Explain what this statement by Tim Keller means:
"The moment you revise the gospel, you reverse it"
11. Why should understanding the true gospel produce anger at false "gospels"?

^bKeller, Timothy. Galatians for You (Charlotte, NC: The Good Book Company, 2013). 23.