

# Galatians 1

## Who?

Paul - V. 1: "Paul, an apostle..."

Church of Galatia - V. 2: "To the churches in Galatia..."

False teachers - V.7: "Evidently some people...are try to pervert the gospel..."

Jesus Christ - V.3-4: "...Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age."

## What?

Galatians is an urgent letter. Jump ahead to 6:11 which informs us that Paul is writing the letter himself. This is uncommon for Paul, as he usually would speak his letter to a scribe for transcription. In Galatians 1, the greeting is presented, as well as the main problem.

## When?

Based on clues in text (Paul's travels mentioned in verse 18-24) and additional research from other New Testament books, Galatians was written around 48 A.D.

## Where?

Galatia would now be in modern-day Turkey. Most scholars believe this letter was written to the churches in the southern part of Galatia.

## Why?

In Chapter 1, Paul address two things concerning him:

1. His frustration. As stated above, Paul is writing a very urgent message to the church of Galatia. He is frustrated because the church is being influenced by false teachers (v.6-9). Paul says this "gospel" is actually no gospel at all. Chapter 2 will give a better glimpse at the legalism/moralism being taught.
2. His legitimacy. The opposition (false teachers) to Paul's gospel, which is from Jesus Christ (v.12), seem to be attacking Paul's legitimacy. He clarifies his qualifications in v.11-24.

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## Key Verse

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."

## Key Application Questions

Are you trying to please men?

Are you trying to win the approval of God (moralism/legalism)?

Has God's grace compelled you to please/serve him?

## Additional Reading

Acts 1-9 - the origins of the Church & Paul's history & conversion