

# GALATIANS

## 1:1-11 | STUDY GUIDE

### People Pleaser

**GALATIANS 1:6**, "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..." (ESV)

- Paul spares no one
  - Barely provides a polite intro
  - His rhetoric is more functional than formal: remember, this is a letter and not a speech or debate
- Important cultural/historic context
  - "Judaizers" misleading → proselytes
  - Politics → Jewish exemption
    - Don't anger the gods

**GALATIANS 1:4**, "...who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." (ESV)

- Paul's gospel = true gospel
  - Paul is not abandoning or rejecting his Jewishness
  - Paul is not abandoning or rejecting the Torah
  - The Torah doesn't contradict the cross
- The Messiah was promised by the God of Israel
  - The Messianic promise brings the two halves of Abraham's family together

# GALATIANS

## 1:1-11 | STUDY GUIDE

**GALATIANS 1:8**, "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." (ESV)

- "Even if an angel"
- Paul takes the confusion these false teachers are spreading extremely seriously
  - Shows how toxic the division was becoming

**GALATIANS 1:10**, "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." (ESV)

- Paul is clearly agitated
  - He's been accused of only teaching Gentile converts they don't need to be circumcised just to "please" people
  - This is more than a defense of the accusation he faced regarding circumcision
    - Paul points out that serving God is never about "pleasing" people
- Paul is not qualified by man

**GALATIANS 1:11**, "For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel." (ESV)

- Paul answers to a higher authority than the leaders of the church in Jerusalem
  - This line of argument would have been troubling to the Jewish authorities as well as the Roman authorities

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** N.T. Wright, *The New Testament in Its World*, Matthew Pawlak, *Sarcasm in Paul's Letters*, Archeological Study Bible,