

**Galatians**  
**“Living Free”**

**Statement of Purpose: 1:6-9**

**“Why live in a prison without walls?”**

**I. Intro.**

**II. Vs. 6-7 No turning away**

**III. Vs. 8-9 Double curse**

**I. Intro.**

Here Paul shares the reason for the letter and what was keeping him up at night! Some had come to these precious people and perverted the truth about the person and work of Jesus causing them to move away from freedom and back into bondage in *a prison without walls*. After Paul’s departure folks (Judaizers) came into the region and persuaded the believers to leave a life of freedom and return again back to a life of bondage only this time in a prison without walls and bars. What they taught appealed to them like it appeals to our fallen nature; to be like Private Ryan who tries to earn the sacrifice. It sounds good: *“I’ll do good: Go door to door, ride bicycles, wear special underwear, sell magazines, light candles and play with beads. I’ll EARN what God has given me!”* But think of this, if someone gives you a gift and you open your wallet and pay for it is it still a gift? If Someone gives you a gift and you now feel obligated to do something in return to earn what they gave you is it still a gift? Ah but if you being so blessed by their gift now want to do the same for other because they have demonstrated a sacrificial love then you are not giving to get, you are giving because you have gotten! You are not giving to earn what you have gotten; you are giving because He first gave to you! (1 John 4:19)

## II. Vs. 6-7 No turning away

Vs. 6 This is the only one of Paul's letters where he omits any praise, prayer, thanksgiving or commendation for the church. Instead it is replaced by amazement which was ***not*** that they were merely turning away but that they were doing so this soon. To make matters worse their turning was not from an ideology or point of view it was from a Person who gave up His life that they may have life. The phrase is "*You are turning away so soon*" literally means that they were **transferring their allegiance. These Galatians who had only a short time ago willing and joyfully embraced Jesus now were not just leaving the team they were joining the opposition!** As gentiles they had come to faith in the freedom that only Jesus could offer them but now they believed that it was best that they first became Jews, keep the law, become circumcised and follow regulations, rituals and rules. These false teachers didn't deny that you need to follow Jesus (*they seldom do*); no they said that **He wasn't enough you must let Moses do the rest**. To these Judaizers and the Galatian believers, when Jesus said "*It is finished*" He was wrong it wasn't really finished you must go the rest of the way on your own. **The problem is that you cannot embrace the person of Jesus while rejecting the work and word of Christ**. People think that they can do that all the time: Oh they like Jesus, He is a prophet, a teacher, a miracle worker but His sacrifice isn't enough.

Notice verse 6 carefully as Paul says, "*I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon **from Him***" Then Paul continues in the same sentence by saying, "*who called you in the grace of Christ, to **a different gospel***". The implications are clear as to what Paul was

meaning, **“To forsake the gospel is to forsake Jesus in whose gospel it is!”** The message and the messenger are inseparable and these Galatians weren’t just turning to a message to “*fill in or add too*” what they were being told Jesus’ sacrifice lacked. Paul wanted them to know they were rejecting Jesus. And as is always the case when we let go of Jesus or add to Jesus we are not replacing him or adding to Him that which is better we are **giving up the best.**

Vs. 7 Next notice that Paul tells us three things about this “other gospel” that these Galatians had accepted from the hand of the Judaizers.

- a. **Which is not another:** The word Gospel means “*good news*” and this other gospel that was being received wasn’t good news. The word “*another*” **doesn’t** mean of the “*same kind but a different emphasis*” it means a completely “*different*” Jesus and gospel. This new message was not of equally or greater value of the gospel of grace. There are folks all the time trying to add to or take away from Jesus. Like the witches brew they add a little Jesus to the “eye of newt” you see these false teachers aren’t opposed to religion. But when you take Jesus’ claims and words at face value they exclude that possibility of any human works or effort and this is what offends people. “*What you mean, that my good works are of no value? Do you know how long I’ve been gathering and doing good works?*” These false teachers had brought the Galatians a completely different gospel and wrapped in the same paper calling it the same thing but it wasn’t the same in any way. It would be still false if they didn’t bring a “*different Jesus*” and a “*different gospel*” but what these Judaizers had done was similar to

what Joseph Smith brought in Mormonism. That is always satan's methods to mix the true Jesus with some false hoods.

- b. **Some who trouble you:** The word "trouble" in verse 7 is a word that refers to being "sea sick" **these folks were bent upon rocking the Galatians believers boat so much so that they would toss out grace.** Martin Luther said, "Heretics don't advertise their errors"! These false teachers didn't come out and say that their message was trouble but that is exactly what it was. Notice as well that this false gospel didn't just come to the Galatians out of thin air it was brought to them by the Judaizers. But **why would anyone let go of grace to embrace trouble?** The answer is that **the Galatians were caught up more in how trouble was delivered than on the fact that it was trouble!** That is why churches founded upon a person's charisma or personality can be dangerous because people are more apt to hear how something is said then what is actually being said. Folks, when you change the gospel you automatically trouble the church, these two go hand in hand!
- c. **To pervert the gospel of Christ:** This troubling gospel was really a perversion in that it didn't start from scratch making a new god and a new savior. Instead it perverted the One they had already embraced as true. It used names, terminology and ideas that were familiar just twisted with a different definition. So these false teachers added too and took away from the good news about Jesus. **The gospel of Christ offers us everything but at the cost of our pride as we can't claim any work of our own and in fact we have to admit that we are helplessly and hopelessly lost.**

- It offends our wisdom as God has become a man dying a humiliating death on our behalf.
- It offends our personal experience saying that a dead man, (Jesus Christ) rose from the dead in a glorious body and will never die again.

But with though it may offend us it is nonetheless the truth!

### III. Vs. 8-9 Double curse

Vs. 8-9 Finally notice that Paul doesn't care who brought the false gospel. Even if it is himself, or an angel from heaven, it is to be rejected. Let all of Jesus' Church be on notice that *"The test of a person's ministry is not popularity, miraculous signs and wonders, but their faithfulness to the Word of God."* **The warning couldn't be plainer:** *"Do not be persuaded by the messenger ill respective of how spiritual they may seem!"* If they alter the message or the person of Jesus in any way they are to be rejected. No amount of special glasses and golden tablets can change the fact that what old Joe taught was a different gospel. I'm not saying that those who have been coerced by the slickness of Joe's message are to be attacked or avoided, on the contrary they out to be reached as Paul was doing to these Galatians.

Twice in these two verses Paul says that the person or persons who are distorting the person and work of Jesus Christ should not only not be believed ill regardless of who they are they ought to be cut off. Paul is asking for a double curse for any and all who would distort the truth concerning the person and work of Jesus. His love for the lost was such that those who keep themselves and others from being saved he wished them removed. And that double curse included himself if he ever changed the person or work of Christ. Notice that this curse includes angels as well! I've noticed that people are very

susceptible to outside revelation as the basis of determining if something is true or not. But Paul put up the standard as the Word of God not our human experiences. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:16-19 “*we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and his coming again. We have seen his majestic splendor with our own eyes. And he received honor and glory from God the Father when God's glorious, majestic voice called down from heaven, "This is my beloved Son; I am fully pleased with him."* We ourselves heard the voice when we were there with him on the holy mountain. Because of that, ***we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets.*** Pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a light shining in a dark place—until the day Christ appears and his brilliant light shines in your hearts.” Peter had personal experience but he says that of greater value than that is the fulfilled Word of God. So instead of the “*burning in the bosom*” test take the angelic revelation next to the Word of God and it clearly won’t pass the test.

Saint’s remember that ***the devil disrupts the Church as much by error as he does by evil.*** The ban upon all who preach an opposite gospel than Jesus is universal upon all angelic as well as Paul himself. His zealousness for the good news was even if he were to slip and begin to espouse such lies that he should also be banned. By repeating it twice within two verses Paul does so to show that this wasn’t merely an emotional moment that he lost control of but a calm well thought out statement. These are not the actions of a man-pleaser but a Christ-pleaser. By ending this section this way Paul is saying that what was at stake were not just his views or opinions but the glory of God and the only way of salvation! “*I venture to say that if the church cared more for the glory of God and the souls of the lost we too would not tolerate the corruption of the gospel of grace.*”