

# Galatians

## Chapter One

### Verses 6-7

1. Paul could not believe that the Galatian believers had turned from him (the one that had shared the gospel of grace with them) and allowed themselves to be duped by the legalistic Jews who had infiltrated the church. He said, "I marvel..."
  - The word "removed" means "to turn away from." They had turned from Paul (who had called them into the grace of Christ) to these false teachers. As a result, their love for Paul began to cool.
2. What happened to these Galatian believers can happen anywhere (**Eph. 4:14**). There are false teachers everywhere, hoping to deceive baby Christians.
3. The Jewish legalists had come proclaiming a gospel that was different than Paul's gospel. **How was it different?**
  - Paul's gospel was one of complete grace. **Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 4:4-5, Eph. 1:7**
    - Salvation is the gift of God's grace, purchased for us by Jesus Christ on the cross. There was absolutely no mixture of works and grace. 2:16 cf. **Rom. 11:6**
  - The Jewish legalists proclaimed a gospel of works.
    - They convinced many of these Gentile converts that it was necessary for them to keep the law of Moses, with all its rites and ceremonies.
4. Paul denounces this as being no gospel at all, but a corruption of the true gospel.
  - Truly, it is no good news at all. Why? Because nobody can keep the law! The law brings a curse, not a blessing. 3:10
  - This is why these believers had lost the blessedness of their salvation. 4:15
5. The Jewish legalists had brought these believers under a system of rule-keeping and it led to frustration, misery, and contention. This is why Paul said, "... there be some that trouble you."
6. They had been saved by grace and now were attempting to stay saved by keeping the law. 4:9-10
7. This is totally contrary to God's plan. We not only are saved by grace, but we are to live by grace every day (**Rom. 6:1-2**). You cannot add any works of the law or the flesh to grace and it still be grace. If there is something we have to **do** to be acceptable and righteous in God's eyes, then it is no more grace. 2:21

### Verses 8-9

1. Paul uses the strongest possible language to express his total abhorrence for the false gospel that was being taught.
2. If anyone teaches that righteousness can come from anything other than Christ alone, "...let him be accursed."
3. The law cannot bring righteousness; it only curses those who try to live up to it. When someone preaches rule-keeping for righteousness, he places himself under a curse.

4. When Paul declares, "...let him be accursed," he is exhorting the churches to expel these false teachers from the church. cf. 4:12
5. When a person teaches that justification does not come through faith in Christ alone, this is grounds to dismiss that person from the church body and treat him as an unbeliever. **Titus 3:9-10**

### **Verse 10**

1. Paul had a God-given mission and message and he wasn't about to compromise it for anybody.
2. Paul wasn't playing politics; he was preaching the gospel of grace. Jesus was his Lord and he was taking his instruction from Christ. If Paul would have simply compromised a little, he probably could have avoided a lot of persecution, but when it came to the gospel of grace, he wouldn't budge an inch. **1 Thess. 2:4**
3. What a stern rebuke to the pastor whose main concern is, "Did the people like my message? Did it please them? Am I giving them what they want?"
4. Today it is popular for ministries to be built around the idea of, "What do the people want? What will bring in the crowds and the money?" We certainly should have a servant's heart towards others, but ultimately our ministries must be God-centered, not people-centered.