

Read Galatians 1:1-24

- 1.A. Who is the author of this book? See Galatians 1:2 Before coming to faith in Christ, what was this man like? See Acts 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13-14; and Philippians 3:4b-6.
- 1.B. Describe Paul's conversion. See Acts 9:3-9. What plan did God have for him? See Acts 9:15-56 and Galatians 1:15-16. Describe the "new man" Paul. See Acts 9:20, 22, 26-30.
- 1.C. In verse 1 Paul makes a point to tell the Galatians that his authority is from God and he calls himself an apostle. What were the qualifications of an apostle? See Acts 1:20b-26. Was Paul qualified to be an apostle? See 1 Corinthians 9:1 and Galatians 1:11-12.
- 1.D. To whom is Paul writing this letter? See Galatians 1:2. Using an encyclopedia, Bible dictionary or handbook, what information can you find concerning the people or churches of Galatia?
- 1.E. What does Paul extend to the Galatians? See Galatians 1:3. According to Galatians 1:4, why can these things be offered to the Galatians?
- 2.A. The people Paul refers to in Galatians 1: 6-9 were called Judaizers. They were a sect of Jewish Christians who insisted that Christians must come to God not only through belief in Christ but also through the Laws of Judaism. What were the Judaizers teaching? What was happening to the Galatians as a result of their teaching? See Galatians 1:6-7.

- 2.B. Paul says there is only one true gospel message---the one he has preached. See Galatians 1:3-5. What is the one true gospel message? See 1 Corinthians 15:2-5 and Ephesians 2:8-10.
- 2.C. Like the Galatians, we too can find ourselves tempted to “alter” Biblical truths. Can you think of some areas/subjects, etc. we tend to change in God’s Word or to “water down?” Discuss.
- 3.A. Paul’s attitude toward false teachers is harsh; therefore, in Galatians 1: 8-9 Paul uses the expression, “Let him be accursed,” meaning banned or excommunicated. (The New International Version translates this “eternally condemned.”) Do you think he has the right to speak so strongly? Why or why not?
- 3.B. Because the Judaizers added to the truth, they are considered false teachers. When should a teacher be labeled a “false teacher?” See I Peter 2:1-3a and Jude 2-4, 16). How should false teachers be dealt with today? See 2 John 7:11.
- 4.A. Read verse 10. Why did Paul feel he could not be a “pleaser of men?” See Galatians 6:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4; and James 4:4)
- 4.B. We all have a tendency to try to please men rather than God. Whose approval means the most to you? Why? Have you had an opportunity to choose to please God and not man? What happened?
- 5.A. What did Paul do shortly after his conversion to Christianity? See Galatians 1:16-21. Why do you suppose Paul was so careful to tell the Galatians that he did not consult immediately with anyone? See Galatians 1:12.

- 5.B. Paul spent some time alone in Arabia. Do you spend time alone with God? When do you spend time with Him? What benefits do you see from this time?
- 6.A. As Paul closes Chapter 1, he shares his first Jerusalem experience after becoming a follower of Christ. How did the Judean Christians respond to the news of Paul's faith in Christ? See Galatians 1:22-24.
- 6.B. Can you think of someone today who has evoked a similar response from the Christian community? How does the Christian community usually treat these new believers? What should the response be? See Galatians 1:24.

SAMPLE