

Galatians

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1 This letter comes from Paul, an apostle not appointed by any human organization or human authority ¹. Quite the contrary: I was appointed by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Jesus from the dead. ² All the brothers and sisters here with me join in sending this letter to the churches in Galatia.

3 May the grace and peace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

4 Jesus gave himself for our sins to set us free from this current world of evil, following the will of our God and Father. ⁵ To him be glory forever and ever! Amen.

6 I'm shocked at how quickly you're abandoning the God who by the grace of Christ called you. You are turning to a different kind of good news ⁷ that isn't good news at all! Some people there are confusing you, wanting to pervert the good news of Christ. ⁸ But if anyone, even we ourselves, or even an angel from heaven, should promote any other kind of good news ² than what we have already told you, let them be condemned! ⁹ I repeat what we've told you before: if anyone promotes any other kind of good news ³ than what you've already accepted, let them be condemned!

10 Whose approval do you think I want—that of people or of God? Do you think I'm trying to please people? If I wanted to please people I wouldn't be a servant of Christ!

11 Let me make it clear, my friends, regarding the good news I'm declaring—it did not come from any human being. ¹² I didn't receive it from anyone, and nobody taught it to me—it was Jesus Christ who revealed it to me. ¹³ You heard how I behaved as a follower of the Jewish religion—how I fanatically persecuted God's church, savagely trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I surpassed my contemporaries in the practice of the Jewish religion because I was so fervently devoted to the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But when God (who had set me apart from birth) called me through his grace, and was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me so that I could announce the good news to the nations ⁴, I didn't discuss this with anyone. ¹⁷ I didn't go to Jerusalem to talk to those who preceded me as apostles; instead I left for Arabia, and then later returned to Damascus. ¹⁸ After three years I went to Jerusalem to visit Peter. I stayed with him for two weeks. ¹⁹ I didn't see any other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (Let me assure you before God that I'm not lying about

¹ + 1:1. Literally, "not by men nor through man."

² + 1:8. Clearly Paul doesn't think this is good news at all, so maybe should be in ironic quotes: "good news."

³ + 1:9. As 1:8.

⁴ + 1:16. Or "Gentiles."