

Galatians 1:6–10 — Leader / Learner Guide

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Big Idea and Context

Big idea: There is only one gospel: grace through faith in Christ. Adding anything to it does not improve it; it turns it into a different message that stands under God's curse.

Paul skips his usual thanksgiving and goes straight to the problem. This passage states the issue the whole letter answers.

- **1:1–5:** Paul's authority is from God, and the gospel rests on Christ's sacrifice.
- **1:6–10:** the Galatians are deserting that gospel for a counterfeit.
- **1:11–2:21:** Paul proves his gospel came by revelation, not from men.

One Gospel — Three Anchor Verses

Verse	What it says	Teaching point
1:6	Turning away ... from Him who called you in the grace of Christ	A military word for desertion: voluntary and already under way. They were leaving Christ, not just Paul.
1:7	A different gospel, which is not another	Different in kind (heteros), not another of the same kind (allos). There is no second version of the gospel.
1:8–9	Let him be accursed	The test is the message, not the messenger — even Paul or an angel would stand under the curse.

"So soon": the drift came within about a year of Paul's visit, and it started with small, quiet steps.

Anathema: the Greek Old Testament uses it for the Hebrew herem, things devoted to destruction (Joshua 6:17). Paul uses Israel's strongest curse language.

Teaching Flow

1. **The Galatians' Desertion (6).** Swift and voluntary. They deserted from Christ, who called them by grace, to a perverted gospel.
2. **The Nature of the Counterfeit (6–7).** Not a variant but a different kind. The troublers want to turn the gospel into its opposite.
3. **The Unlikely Scenario (8).** Even Paul or an angel preaching otherwise would be accursed. Scripture alone is the test.
4. **The Likely Scenario (9).** Paul repeats the curse and aims it at the Judaizers now troubling them.
5. **Paul's Wisdom (10).** A bondservant of Christ seeks to please one Master. Grace, not works, is what glorifies Christ.

Clarify While Teaching

- **"Turning away":** this describes believers drifting in practice. It does not mean they lost the eternal life they received by faith; Paul still calls them brethren (1:11).
- **"Accursed":** the curse falls on the false message and its preachers, not on believers who were confused by it.
- **"Persuade men, or God?" (v.10):** Paul is answering a charge that his law-free gospel was designed to flatter Gentiles.
- **Testing teachers:** the point is not suspicion of every teacher, but checking every message against the written Word (Acts 17:11).

Discussion and Close

1. Where are you tempted to add a hidden "and" to grace — faith in Christ and something else?
2. When someone turns down the gospel you share, whose call are they really rejecting? How should that change your response?
3. Are you serving Christ out of fear of losing something, or out of gratitude for what is already secure (2 Cor 5:14)?

Close: Point ahead to 1:11–17: Paul now proves that his gospel came by revelation from Jesus Christ. "He called you by grace. Stay there."

Full study: [The One True Gospel — Galatians 1:6–10](#) · Source: Dr. C. Norman Sellers, [SellersBibleInstitute.com](#)