

Galatians 1:1-5 Discussion Guide

Some scholars believe that Galatians is one of the first, if not the first, of the New Testament books to be written. There is zero debate among any Biblical scholars. that it was written by the Apostle Paul and that it reflects his concerns for the church in his day. Even some of the most radically anti-Christian skeptics who study the New Testament accept this. (see <https://ehrmanblog.org/the-accuracy-of-pauls-letter-to-the-galatians/>)

From a standpoint of what we should believe and why we should believe it, Galatians is a lynchpin book of the Bible. We should have confidence that we are resting our faith in the exact same objects as the people who heard Jesus' teaching, saw him resurrected, and were commissioned by him to build the church and write Scripture.

The subject matter of Galatians is relevant to us for a second reason. Paul chief concern for the churches that lived less than twenty years after the resurrection of Jesus was that were forgetting on a practical level the Gospel that had been declared to them. They were in danger of abandoning faith in favor of religion. This is exactly the same danger that every generation of Christians since Paul, including our own, has faced.

Read together the opening of Galatians. Ask a few questions about the text to get started.

Why does Paul introduce himself the way that he does?

What is Paul proclaiming about Jesus from the very outset?

What does Paul believe was Jesus' purpose?

Who are the churches?

What is the relationship of the churches to God?

Why did Jesus have to die?

For what purpose did Jesus rescue the church?

Galatians 1:1-5

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Discussion Questions

- **Why might Paul be facing claims against his being an apostle?**
- **What is the importance of being sure that you are sent out by God and not by man?**
- **How does having a high view of Jesus' work give you a proper view of yourself?**

- **What does it matter whether we believe Paul was sent by God or by man?**
- **What is the difference between religion and faith?**
- **Is leadership about accumulating honor and titles or is it about giving of yourself for others?**
- **How does Jesus serve as Paul's master in the way that Paul functions as an apostle?**
- **How can you use your salvation for the glory of God this week?**