



Gary Allen Henecke DD

Paul's letter "To the Galatians" is the ninth book of our New Testament, but is most probably the earliest circulated, closest to the resurrection. Paul wrote to early communities of non-Jewish Christians in Galatia. This is either the Roman province of Galatia in southern Asia, or a large region defined by *Galatians*, an ethnic group of Celtic people in central Anatolia (today's Turkey). The letter was written in Koine Greek and is Paul's deeply held views.

Paul an Apostle - not from men, nor any human commission, but from Jesus Christ, and God the Father who raised him from out of the dead - with all the brothers with me - to the congregations of Galatia: grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for our sins and rescued us out of this present evil age, according to the will of God the Father - to

whom be glory forever and ever. Amen!

- A. Paul - God's chosen man - needing no human endorsement.
- B. This is "all" in God's will - God's purpose!!!

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed. As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! . . . (Galatians 1:6-9 NRS)

- C. Another "gospel" - a twist of the truth given to us in Jesus???

 - a. This is what The Reformation and creation of Protestantism is all about.
 - b. Paul and Peter disagreed - Barnabas and Paul will schism - but in our letter there is worse - what is "another gospel"?

- D. The Gospel of Jesus Christ - not the Gospel about Jesus Christ.

Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son (in) to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being . . . (Gal 1:10-16 NRS)