



# THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

## *The Truth About The Gospel*

### *The Dangers of Legalism, Liberalism, & Literalism*

## Lesson #1 = *The Grace of the Gospel* (Galatians 1)

*Sermon for Evening Worship by Ray Reynolds on January 4, 2014*

Introduction: The book of Galatians presents an effective case for the gospel of Christ. It challenges the basic principles of legalism, yet also reveals the dangers of liberalism and literalism. Paul shows the necessity of balance and understanding within the Christian community. In the kingdom of God there is room for legalism, liberalism, and literalism... but it can be dangerous if one group dominates the thoughts and/or vision of the church family. Everyone matures at a different rate. Not everyone sees things exactly as another. What Paul advocates, in this letter, is that God loves us ALL the same. Instead of focusing on all of our differences, we need to find our common identity in Christ. In chapter one, Paul establishes the source of his own apostleship and defends the gospel of God's grace to all men. Let's study together...

### Discussion:

#### ***I. Recognizing the Grace of God (1:1-5)***

- A. Paul's Proper Greeting (vs.1-2)
- B. Paul's Personal Greeting (vs.3-5)

#### ***II. Falling From the Grace of God (1:6-10)***

- A. Paul's Shock & Frustration (vs.6-8)
- B. Paul's Work & Preaching (vs.9-10)

#### ***III. Sharing the Grace of God (1:11-14)***

- A. Paul's Personal Testimony (vs.11-13)
- B. Paul's Personal Failures (v.14)

#### ***IV. Revealing the Grace of God (1:15-24)***

- A. Paul's Calling (vs.15-16)
- B. Paul's Teaching (vs.17-24)

Conclusion: The book of Galatians is a wonderful book and it parallels another great book he wrote, the letter to the Romans. In fact, let me encourage you to read Romans and Galatians together as we study over the next few weeks. One of the main underlying points that must not be missed is the fact that all people should hear the gospel message (**Mark 16:15-16**). No one group of people has a monopoly on God or His church or entrance into His kingdom. What can you do to ensure that the grace of God is shared with everyone? What are you going to do with the grace of the gospel? Will you obey it?



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