

Galatians 1:6-17

Cultural Context:

- Some Jewish Christians believed that OT Jewish practices were still binding on the NT church
 - Some Jews disagreed that the Gospel was for the Gentiles, or that they should be associating with them
 - As a result, Paul's apostleship was questioned, along with the Gospel he proclaimed
1. In v.6-7, in light of the context of what was going on, how might you describe the "different gospel," or "different good news," which Paul mentions? How might a Jew have thought of it?
 2. While a person's nature wants to work his or her way to God and earn righteousness, we fail and fall short of this. What is the Gospel for us who fall short?
 3. What about this "different gospel" made it "no Gospel at all"?
 4. In verse 6, Paul appeals to "the one who called you" -- God Himself. The Galatians' conversion was accompanied by the power of God through the Holy Spirit. This is why Paul is able to speak so strongly in verses 8-9, repeating an *eternal condemnation* for those with a different message. If not the power of God, what devices do you think these preachers of the "other gospel" used to confuse and convince the people? How is this done today?
 5. In v.10, Paul calls himself a "servant of Christ." The Greek word for servant here is not 'diakonos' (servant), but rather 'doulos,' or more literally, slave. From what you know of Paul, in what ways did he show himself to be sold out in complete and seemingly illogical obedience to his Lord, Jesus Christ?
 6. Think more closely on this idea of 'doulos.' What does it mean in our lives to be completely sold out in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ?
 7. In v.11-17, Paul talks about his personal history. How does his own path not make sense from a worldly perspective?
 8. In what ways has the power of God affected the path of your life?