

An Angry Paul - 5/10/26  
Galatians 1:1-9

- I. Background to Galatians
  - Paul was angry with the Galatians and it shows in the language he used in his letter
  - The first Christians were all Jews who followed the Old Testament Law
  - They saw themselves as Jews and were essentially a sect within Judaism, not a separate religion
  - Jews were not allowed to fraternize with non-Jews
  - In Paul's churches there were both Jews and Gentiles
  - Some Jewish Christian teachers (i.e., Judaizers) said Gentile Christians had to first become Jews
- II. How Paul Addressed the Problem
  - He established his credibility as an authoritative teacher of the Christian faith
  - He claimed his authority came directly from God, not any human being
  - He explained the difference between faith and the Law
    - The purpose of the Law was to show people what sin is because it has no power to save
    - Christ fulfilled the Law making it unnecessary
    - Faith makes us righteous and right with God
  - In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free
- III. Did Paul Mean Faith in Christ or Faith of Christ?
  - Faith in Christ suggests it is our belief in Christ that makes us righteous
  - Faith of Christ suggest it is Christ's faithfulness in obeying the Father that makes us righteous
    - The Atonement doctrine says it was Christ's work on the cross that make us right with God
    - Our faith enables us to accept God's gift of grace
- IV. Paul's Final Words of Encouragement
  - Live by the Spirit instead of the flesh

- The fruit of the Spirit leads to a blessed life

*We, too, can be fruitful by being a Spirit-filled person with qualities that make for a rich, fulfilling life that is a blessing to everyone around us.*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Galatians 1:1-9 - Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—<sup>2</sup>and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches of Galatia:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup>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— <sup>7</sup>not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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! <sup>9</sup>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 2:16 - ...we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

Galatians 5:22-25 - By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.