

Galatians 1:1-10

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To the churches in Galatia:

³ Grace 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.

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

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Main Idea (Galatians 1:1-10)

Because the Galatians were abandoning this gospel for a "different" message, adding Jewish law-keeping to faith in Christ, Paul responds with astonishment and a solemn curse on false teachers.

The gospel is not a human idea that can be improved, adjusted, or supplemented; it is a divine revelation from God that saves and must be guarded at all costs. Paul was defending the very heart of salvation (The "Gospel" from God, not man) and its content (grace through faith in Christ alone).

11 men arrested in Singapore, as regional police crackdown nabs 326 in online child abuse probe

The police are investigating the individuals for their suspected involvement in producing, possessing, gaining access and distributing child sexual abuse materials, among other offences.



The Singapore police are investigating suspected payments for obscene content via Telegram as they made arrests during a regional operation targeting online child abuse networks. (Photos: Singapore Police Force)



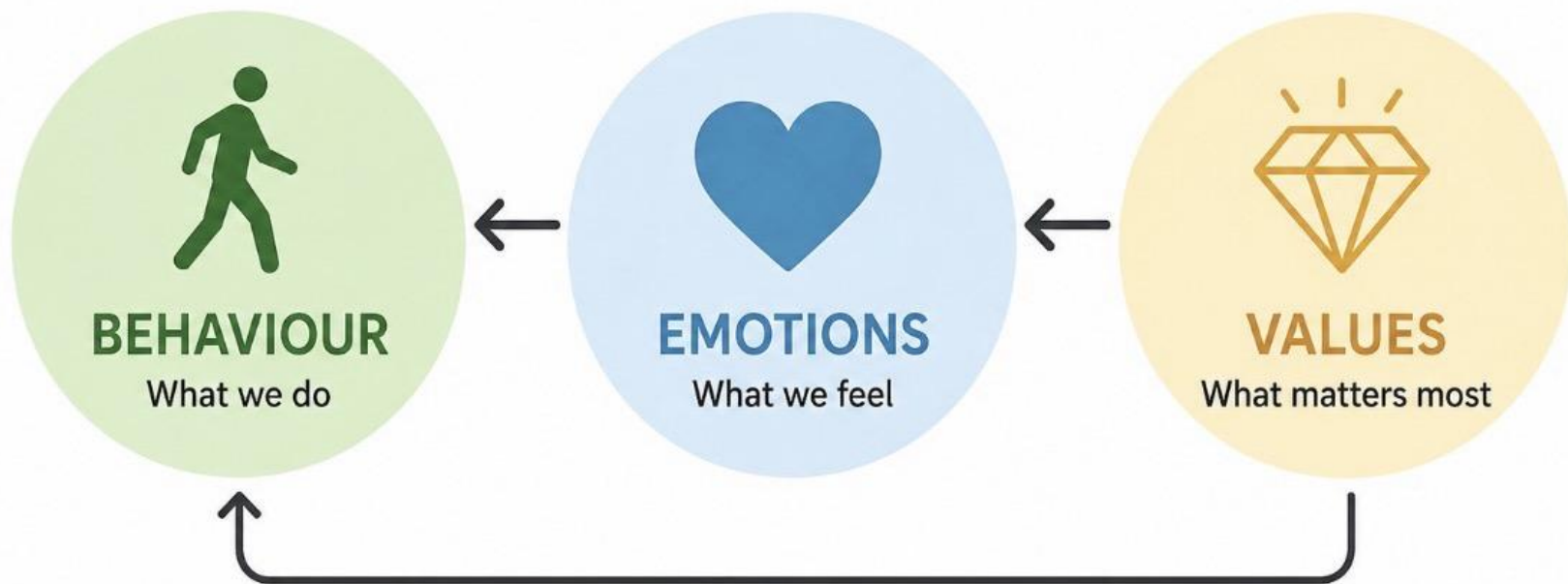
Rachel Lim

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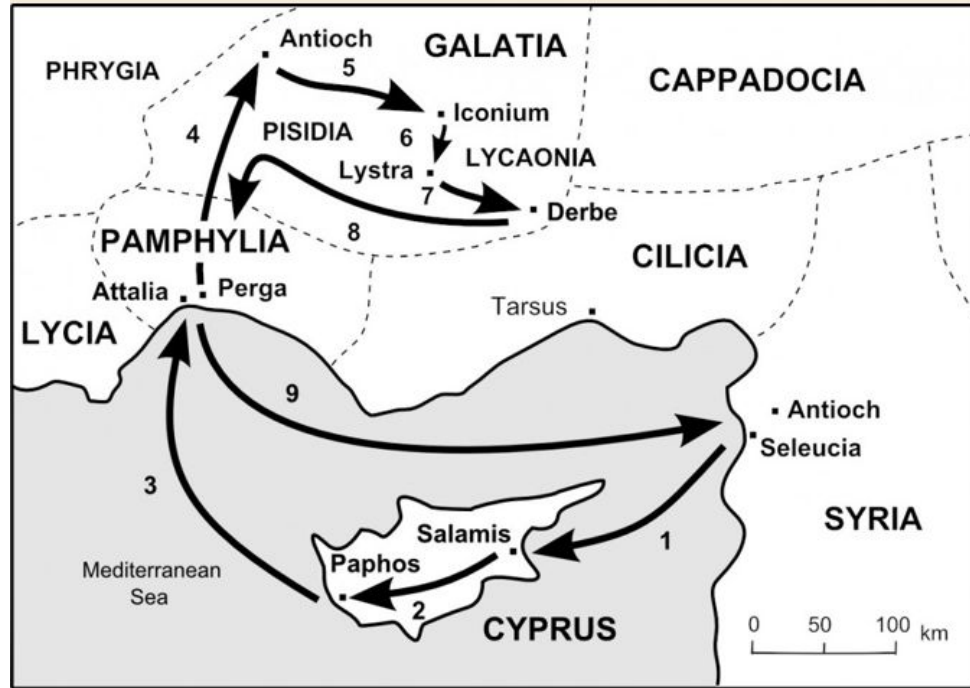
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Paul's behaviour and
emotions were
driven by His values



Our values shape our emotions,
which influence our behaviour.

Background of the book of Galatians



The book of Galatians was addressed to several churches in the region of Galatia where Paul proclaimed the gospel in his 1st missionary journey (Acts 13-14)

Antioch (Syria) → Salamis (Cyprus), Paphos (Cyprus)
→ Perga (Pamphylia) → Pisidian Antioch (Galatia),
Iconium (Galatia), Lystra (Galatia), Derbe (Galatia)

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COMMISSIONED

- Paul identifies himself as an apostle, *not from men nor through man*,
- An "apostle" means "one who is sent out"; a messenger entrusted with a specific mission and authority from God

Paul was divinely commissioned by God to teach & correct the churches, accountable to God

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- What comes to mind when you think of “peace”
- Paul’s greeting (“grace and peace”) is loaded with gospel content: Jesus *“gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”*
- Paul establishes the gospel is God’s rescue plan, not a self-help program.

Throughout the epistle Paul points the Galatians to the centrality of the cross

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COMPLETE

Everything necessary to rescue us from sin and this evil was fully accomplished in Christ's sacrifice. Nothing can be added.

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No Other Gospel

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting **the one** who **called** you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— **7** which is really no gospel at all.

CALLED

By God's sheer grace, we have been invited into His kingdom not because of our works, but because of His love.

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So what is Apostle Paul concern with?

- Why the strong words in the letter to Galatians?
- Missing here are the expressions of thanks or praise that Paul often wrote in the opening of his letters. Romans 1:8-15, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, Philippians 1:3-11, Colossians 1:3-8, and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

But he did not do this with the Galatians and the directness of his approach indicates the severity of their problem.

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So what is Apostle Paul concern with?

- They were turning away from **from God who called them**) as to a false belief (a **different gospel**).
- Turning away from the principle of **grace**.

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Turning away to a different gospel

The false teachers (Judaizers) were telling the Galatians: *"Faith in Jesus is great, but you also have to be circumcised and follow the Jewish laws to really be saved."*

False gospel: Jesus + rules keeping

- **Confused**
- **Corrupted**
- **Cursed**

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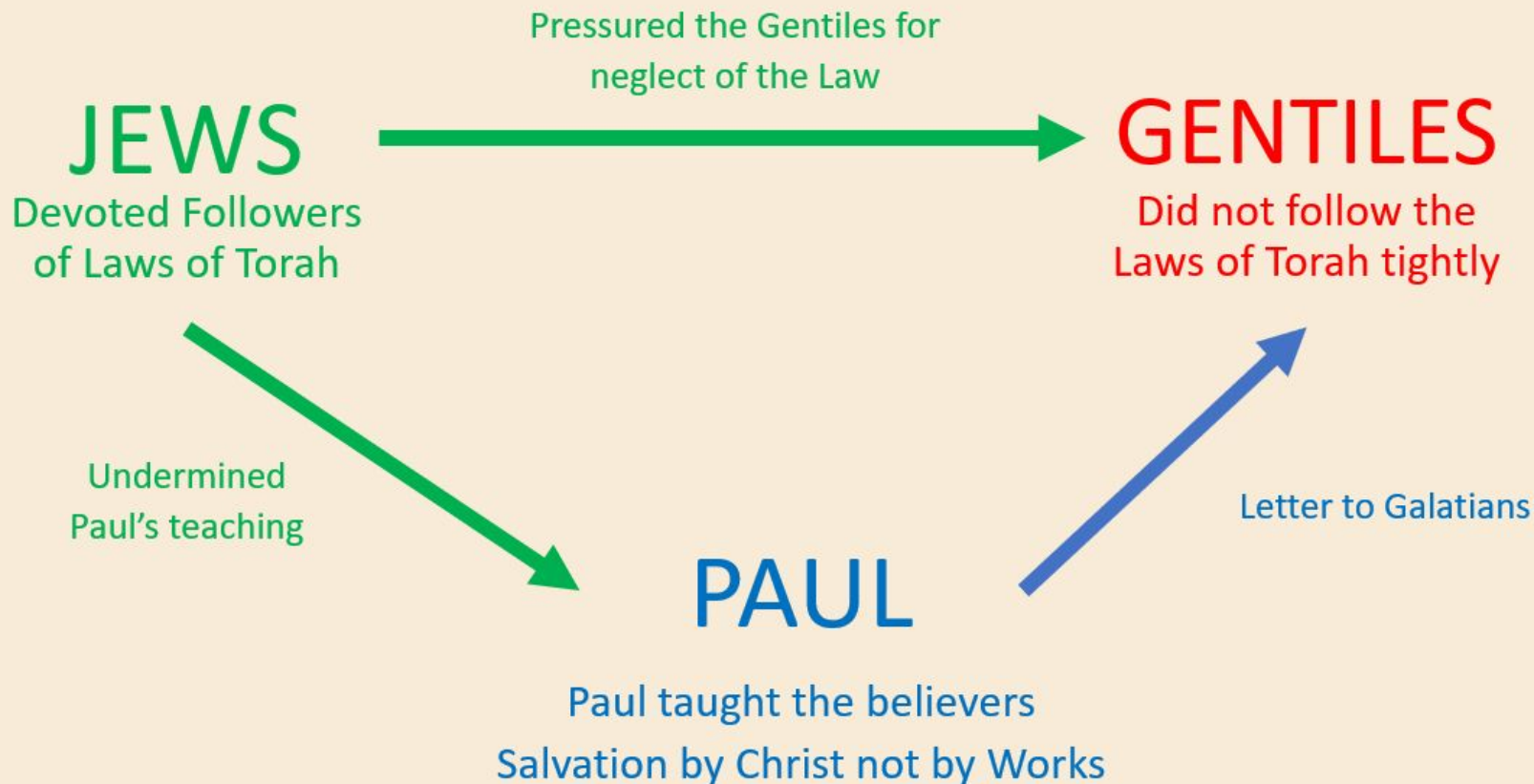
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Context

The Galatians were deserting God the Father who had called them *into* the sphere of Christ's grace. They were abandoning the Father's invitation by turning away from the Son's finished work.

Paul knew that if you could earn your salvation by following rules, then Jesus' death on the cross was pointless (Galatians 2:21).

The tension identified in the book of Galatians



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"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?"

Paul is asking rhetorically to explain *why* he is so blunt:

If he changed his message to make it more popular or less offensive to the false teachers, he would be seeking human approval.

Instead, he is found faithful on preaching the unaltered truth of the Gospel because his allegiance to Christ

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"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?"

Paul points out that the two goals are mutually exclusive.

You cannot simultaneously be a people-pleaser and a faithful servant of Jesus, because the demands of Christ (total surrender, self-denial, and allegiance to the cross) will inevitably clash with the desires of fallen human nature.

Galatians 1:1-10

COMMISSIONED – Paul was divinely sent by God, not by men, to instruct & correct the church in Galatia.

COMPLETE – Everything necessary to rescue us from sin and this evil was fully accomplished in Christ's sacrifice. Nothing can be added.

CALLED – By God's grace, we have been invited into His kingdom; not because of our works, but because of His love.

In response to >>

CONFUSED – False teachers were causing confusion

CORRUPTED – Corrupted the true gospel by denying Christ's finished work

CURSED – Paul declares that God will judge anyone who maliciously leads believers astray with a perverted gospel.

Reflection

1. Paul didn't seek to please men. He sought faithfulness. How can we learn from Paul's example to speak the truth of the Gospel boldly without watering it down or falling into people-pleasing?
2. Paul was astonished that the Galatians were so quickly deserting the true Gospel for a distorted one. In what ways might we, subtly and unintentionally, drift toward a "different gospel" in our own lives? How can we guard against that drift?
3. Are our behaviour and emotions often shaped by Christ-like values, or are they merely reactions to our circumstances driven by our natural flesh & instinct?