

# No Other Gospel: *an 8-Week Study of Galatians*

The Story Houston's Fall 2020 Discipleship Season

## Session One: The Gospel of Inertia

### Introduction

Welcome to our Fall 2020 study of Paul's letter to the Galatians! Over the next eight weeks, we'll explore the words written by the Apostle Paul 1,950 years ago in the year 50 AD. This letter, called *Galatians*, may be the earliest of Paul's thirteen letters that are included in the Bible, and if so, that would make Galatians the oldest book in the New Testament.

Our learning each week will break down into three categories: First, we'll spend twenty minutes learning about the CONTEXT of Galatians. Second, we'll spend twenty minutes exploring the particular CONFLICT that Paul is addressing in that week's reading. And third, we'll discuss the CORRECTION Paul offers the Galatians to get back on track.

This course has three requirements:

1. Do the work. Read the assigned readings. Write your answers in the Study Guides.
2. Listen to *The Story at Home Podcast* for more in-depth teachings on Galatians.
3. Ask questions. Ask the teachers on Wednesday nights. Ask your Group leaders and fellow members. Ask God in prayer.

### This Week's Text

Read Galatians 1:1-24 twice, once silently and once aloud, making notes of any words and phrases that you're not sure about, and writing down any questions that immediately come to mind.

### Context

Let's create a timeline to help us get our minds around the order of events among first-generation Christians:

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4 BC	4-6(?)AD	26-30(?)	33-35(?)	33-38	46-47	49-51(?)
Jesus born	Paul born	Jesus' Ministry	Paul's Conversion	Paul in Arabia, Syria, Cilicia	Paul's 1st Missionary Journey	Galatians Written Jerusalem Council

What stands out to you as you observe this timeline of New Testament events?

Who was Paul?

- Author of 13 New Testament books. List them in order here:
  
- Read Acts 22, and list what you learn about Paul's life and background here:

### **Conflict**

What problem did Paul write to address among the Galatian churches?

Why did this problem matter so much to Paul? What was at stake?

Why did Paul feel the need to defend himself, his background, and his record as an apostle of Jesus Christ?

How do Christians today still fall into the same trap that the Galatian Christians fell into in the first century?

### **Correction**

Read verses 9-10. What is the course correction Paul offered to the Galatians who had gone astray?

How would you define the *Gospel of Inertia*?

How do Paul's rebukes hit home for you? What is the "Gospel of Inertia" that you're most prone to follow, and what makes it inferior to the Gospel of Jesus?

"If Christ is not all to you He is nothing to you. He will never go into partnership as a part Saviour of men. If He be something He must be everything, and if He be not everything He is nothing to you."

— Charles Spurgeon