

6. a. What are some results of false teaching mentioned in the Bible (v. 7; 1 Tim. 1:3, 4, 2 Tim. 4:3, 4)?

b. Who or what had the Galatian believers deserted (v. 6)?

7. The words **turning away** (v. 6, Gr. *metastrepho*, to distort, pervert, to turn around-often into something opposite) are used only three times in the entire New Testament (Ga. 1:6; Acts 2:20; Ja. 4:9). In the two other references, the words **turning away** indicate something being changed in an entirely opposite direction (sun to darkness and laughter into mourning). Using the Greek root definition as a help, explain how the gospel of Jesus Christ was turned in an opposite direction?

8. How did the apostle Paul emphasize that the gospel of Jesus Christ should not be distorted or turned in a different direction (vv. 8, 9)?

9. Why *do you think* some Christians want to put themselves under a set of religious rules or regulations instead of simply being living under grace?

10. a. What would have been the result if Paul were more concerned about pleasing man than God (v. 10)?

b. What *do you think* are some indications that a Christian is more concerned with the approval of man than the approval of God?

c. Are you more concerned about man's approval (fellow workers, neighbors, family, other Christians, etc.) than God's approval? Why?

Sample Study *Galatians*

1. Paul simply included a greeting from the believers who were with him. Paul uses the personal pronoun “I” regularly throughout the first chapter that indicates that the letter was written by him and not a group effort. Paul was sending an introductory greeting from the believers who were with him to the brethren in the churches of Galatia.
2.
 - a. God must extend grace to an individual and the individual must receive His grace before genuine peace can be experienced. Other answers could apply.
 - b. Grace is a gift from God that enables an individual to fulfill God’s will for his life. God is the only source of grace. Besides being an ancient greeting, the word peace is used in Scripture to signify the absence of God’s wrath on those who have accepted God’s gift of righteousness in the person of Jesus Christ (cf. Ro. 5:1). Peace can also refer to the divine assistance and blessing that believers experience when they live in harmony with God’s will for their lives. Since the Galatian believers had already received the positional peace of salvation (i.e., the removal of God’s wrath) the peace that Paul refers to in verse three is God’s continuing endorsement and blessing on those who live according to His will.
3. Christ gave Himself for us that he might redeem us from this present evil age. Christ’s deliverance is two-fold – believers are delivered from the penalty of sin (eternal punishment and judgment) and the power of sin through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (cf. Ro. 7:25-8:17)
4. Everyone who is saved is saved by the grace of God.
5.
 - a. False religious leaders had infiltrated the Galatian churches and taught the continuing obligation to the Old Testament Mosaic Law. The Galatian Christians had accepted their teaching and were trying to fulfill the Law as a means of spiritual growth. While their motives were right and they thought they were being faithful to Christ, they were actually deceived and in the process of deserting Christ—the very One who had rescued them from the curse of the Law.
 - b.
 1. They were religious teachers who upset the faith of new Christians by teaching that circumcision was necessary for all believers (Gal. 1:7, 4:17, 6:12, 13).
 2. They were hypocrites because they expected others to keep the law even though they did not keep it themselves (Gal. 6:12, 13).
 3. They were compromisers because they wanted the believers to keep the Law so that they would not be persecuted (Gal. 6:12).
 4. They were proud because they boasted in their converts (Gal. 6:13).
 5. They were deceitful because they taught in a manner that their listeners turned to them rather than to Christ (Gal. 4:17).
6.
 - a.
 1. False teaching disturbed or upsets the faith of some (Gal. 1:7).
 2. False teaching produces wild theological speculations that cannot be proved and do not help those who hear them.
 3. False teaching causes people to turn away from the truth because they become discouraged and confused over what it right.
 4. False teaching leads people to accept myths (i.e., unsubstantiated religious beliefs). The listeners have no solid basis upon which to determine what is right because false teachers often deceive by saying that they have received special revelation from God.
 - b. God the Father.
7. Jesus Christ came to deliver man from eternal death and this present evil world (Gal. 1:4). The false religious teachers distorted the gospel of Jesus Christ that gives man the freedom to escape the bondage of a religious system that does not give peace and the assurance of sins forgiven. Rather than leading their followers to freedom in Christ, they lead them in the opposite direction into bondage, fear, guilt, and enslavement.
8. Paul said that, if a person (any person) preached a gospel message other than salvation by grace alone, he should be accursed. The word accursed (Gr. *anathema*) means dedicated to destruction. Paul said the gospel must be absolutely unaltered. No one, not even an angel from heaven has the right to change the message of salvation by grace alone. This is a frightening thought when you think of all the other things religious teachers teach about how man enters into heaven.

9.
 1. Some Christians appear to receive a measure of spiritual security by placing themselves under a set of religious rules and regulations.
 2. Some believers seem to find it easier to continue their pattern of religious ritualism they established before they were saved.
 3. Some believers find it difficult to believe that God will continue to direct and empower their lives through the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 4. Some believers appear to lack the knowledge of how to live by God's grace.
 5. Some believers appear still to feel that they must earn God's favor and "doing Christianity" rather than letting Christ live through them gives them a measure of spiritual accomplishment that salves their weak consciences. Other answers could apply.

10.
 - a. He would not be a servant of God.
 - b. Fear of witnessing for Christ. Hypocritical actions. Worldliness in actions and appearance. A lack of peace and joy from God. Legalism. Other answers could apply.