

# Galatians 1:6-9

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/gal/gal-1/galatians-16-9/>

*The Galatians are being led astray by a gospel other than the gospel preached by Paul. Paul resists the false messengers and wants them to be accursed for leading the Galatian believers astray.*

The Galatians had left Jesus and instead began following a new and twisted version of the gospel; one that is *really not another* gospel, but a distortion of the one Paul had told them. Paul will debunk this false gospel, which tried to make the Gentiles (non-Jews) adhere to Jewish customs and laws. This false gospel was given to them by men, not God.

To Paul, it doesn't matter who preaches the false gospel (as he tells his audience *even if an angel from heaven* or *any man* teaches a false gospel), they should all be rejected by the Galatians.

These specific Jewish leaders, who are now competing against Paul's authority, were leading Gentile believers away from the gospel of faith in Christ, pushing them toward one of religious laws and rules. The competing Jewish "authorities" taught that following the Old Testament Law made a person pure and right before God. (One of the laws they tried to impose on the Gentiles was circumcision, which Paul discusses in Chapter 2 of this book).

Paul is very clear that the false teachers leading the Galatian believers astray should be accursed. "Accursed" is a translation of the Greek word *anathema*, from which we get our English word *anathema*. Paul uses the same word in the next to last verse of his first letter to the Corinthian, that Paul writes with his own hand for emphasis: "If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed" (1 Corinthians 16:22). In this instance, *anathema* likely carries the meaning of being "excluded" or "avoided". To consider that Paul is saying to the Galatians "throw these charlatans out and have nothing to do with them" would fit well with other biblical teachings regarding false teachers, that they are to be exposed, condemned, and excluded from the company of the saints.

## Biblical Text

**<sup>6</sup> I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; <sup>7</sup> which is *really not another*; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!**