

Easy As 1-2-3



Galatians Chapter 1

Easy As 1-2-3 is a Bible study format that gives you three different ways to learn the topic being presented. You may do any or all of the levels depending on the time you have to give, the depth of information you'd like to acquire, and the learning method that best suits you.

ONE: Overall Understanding

This includes the text of the passage with brief commentary as you go. By the end of this level, you will not only know what the passage or topic covers but also how it might apply to your life.

TWO: Detailed Study

When you click on the detailed notes, you will discover an abundance of insight that will delight your heart. These notes often include additional context about the historical setting, what other commentators have to say, and insights into the Greek. These are not only informational but designed to help you examine more closely the truths that will set you free.

THREE: Listen and Learn

Many of our teachings were recorded to be used by individuals, small groups, or in congregational settings. Taught by David or Cathy Hildebrand, these are based on the detailed study notes and add additional insight as to how amazing these truths positively affect our lives.

It's as Easy As 1-2-3. Select where you would like to begin. Enjoy!

[1-Overall Understanding \(below\)](#)

[2- Detailed Study Notes](#)

[3-Listen and Learn](#)

Overall Understanding

Galatians 1¹

Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),² and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: ³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Many have noted that the tone of Paul's greeting is quite direct and to the point when compared to other letters in which he elaborates on his positive opinions about them. A good contrast is 1 Thessalonians, in which the whole first chapter includes a very cordial and lengthy greeting.

The gospel of grace and the gospel of peace are often used in reference to the gospel of Jesus.

⁴ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul sums up the gospel: Jesus gave Himself (in death) as payment for our sins—all of our sins—past, present, and future. Because we are delivered from our sins, we are also delivered from this evil age. Because of this good news, Paul gives glory to God.

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Paul gets right to the point. He is amazed that they have so quickly exchanged Jesus for a different gospel. He will share what the different gospel is, but in this verse, we see the true gospel is "the grace of Christ." To exchange the true gospel for a different gospel is to turn from Jesus. So, this is a serious offense.

⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

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There is only one gospel. Paul is speaking of a perverted and corrupted message.

⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Anyone, including angels or Paul himself, who preaches any other “gospel” than the gospel Paul taught is to be accursed—banned/excommunicated. Paul taught the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24). He repeats himself, which signifies the seriousness of what he is saying.

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

In the following verses, Paul defends his ministry to the Galatians. He did not preach a message to please people. He preached the true gospel to please God.

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul makes it clear that he isn't defending his message, but the one he directly received from Jesus.

¹³ For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Paul reminds them that he was formerly an enemy of Christ and of the church. He was a zealot for the Jewish traditions.

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned to Damascus.

Paul did not immediately seek the approval of the apostles. He spent three years in Arabia.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Even after three years, he had only met with Peter for fifteen days and had seen James (the author of the book of James).

²⁰ (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) ²¹ Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. ²³ But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God in me.

Paul was known mostly by reputation to the apostles and the churches. He still hasn't told them about what "other" gospel he writes. We know only at this point that it is a perverted message, that those who teach it are accursed, and that to receive a perverted message is to turn from Jesus.

We will discover that Paul is not talking about a false religion such as those we see masquerading as Christians today. He is talking to people who were truly born again by believing in the true gospel, but who have perverted that true gospel that saved them into a message that is causing them to turn away from Jesus.

Topics Coming Up in Galatians Chapter Two

Paul reveals clearly what the gospel IS and what it is NOT.

Why was Paul so upset with Peter?

Who were the "certain men sent from James"?

How can believers nullify God's grace?

Did Christ in vain?