



GALATIANS

FIGHTING for
the GOSPEL

A Verse-by-Verse Study



Who wrote the book of Galatians?



Turn to:
Acts 13: 49

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.



Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.





What should you do if you are surrounded by false teaching?

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.



What typically happens when a city is divided?



Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the gospel.



0 50 km.
0 50 miles

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you."

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city.
The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.



Why do the Christians need to be strengthened and encouraged to remain true to the faith?

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

Acts 13:49- 14:23 (NIV)

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

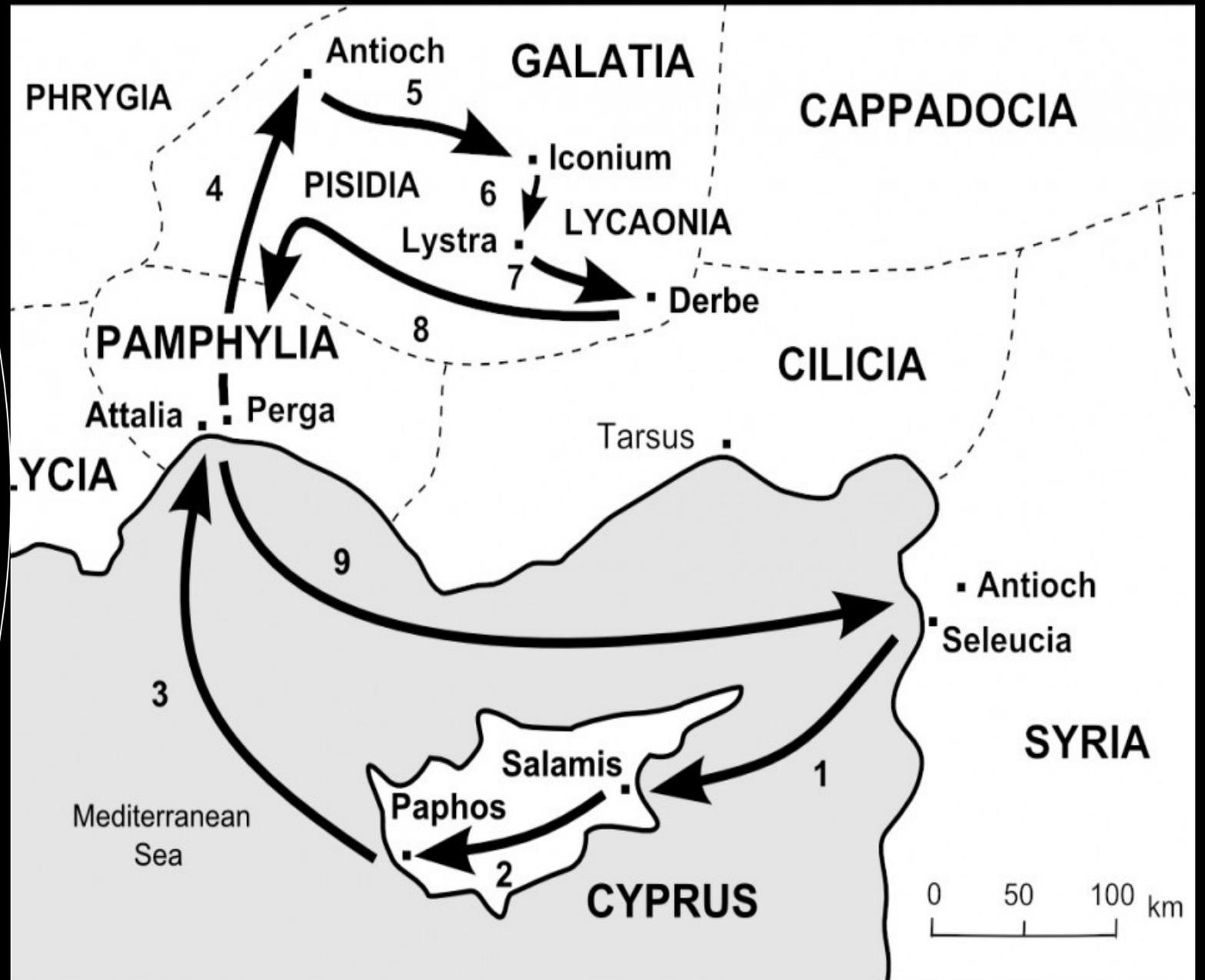
Turkey



Galatia



Paul's First Missionary Journey



Paul's Letters

35AD Paul's conversion

46 - 48AD Paul's First Missionary Journey

49 / 50AD Paul attends the Council of Jerusalem

50AD Letter to the Galatians

50 - 52AD Paul's Second Missionary Journey

51/52AD First Letter to the Thessalonians

52AD Second Letter to the Thessalonians

53 - 57AD Paul's Third Missionary Journey

56AD First Letter to the Corinthians

56AD Second Letter to the Corinthians

57AD Letter to the Romans

57 - 60AD Paul's arrest, imprisonment & journey to Rome

60 - 62AD Paul in Rome awaiting trial before Nero

c.60AD Letter to the Ephesians

c.60AD Letter to the Colossians

c.60AD Letter to Philemon

c.60AD Letter to the Laodiceans (lost)

c.60AD Letter to the Philippians

62 - 67AD Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey

c.63AD First Letter to Timothy

c.63/64AD Letter to Titus

c.67AD Second Letter to Timothy

c.67AD Paul executed in Rome

Purpose of Paul's Letter

To combat the
false teachings
that were
creeping into
the church.

Main Themes

1) Justification by Faith “Defended”
Chapters 1 and 2

2) Justification by Faith “Explained”
Chapters 3 and 4

3) Justification by Faith “Applied”
Chapters 5 and 6

False Teachings in Galatia

Legalism

A person is saved by doing good or being good.

Salvation is based upon your works.

False Teachings in Galatia

Freedom to Sin

You can live however you wish
and can do whatever you want.

Your actions have no
consequences since all your
sins are forgiven.

False Teachings in Galatia

Galatianism

A person is saved by Jesus Christ but once saved, the person is now kept saved by their own works.

GALATIANS

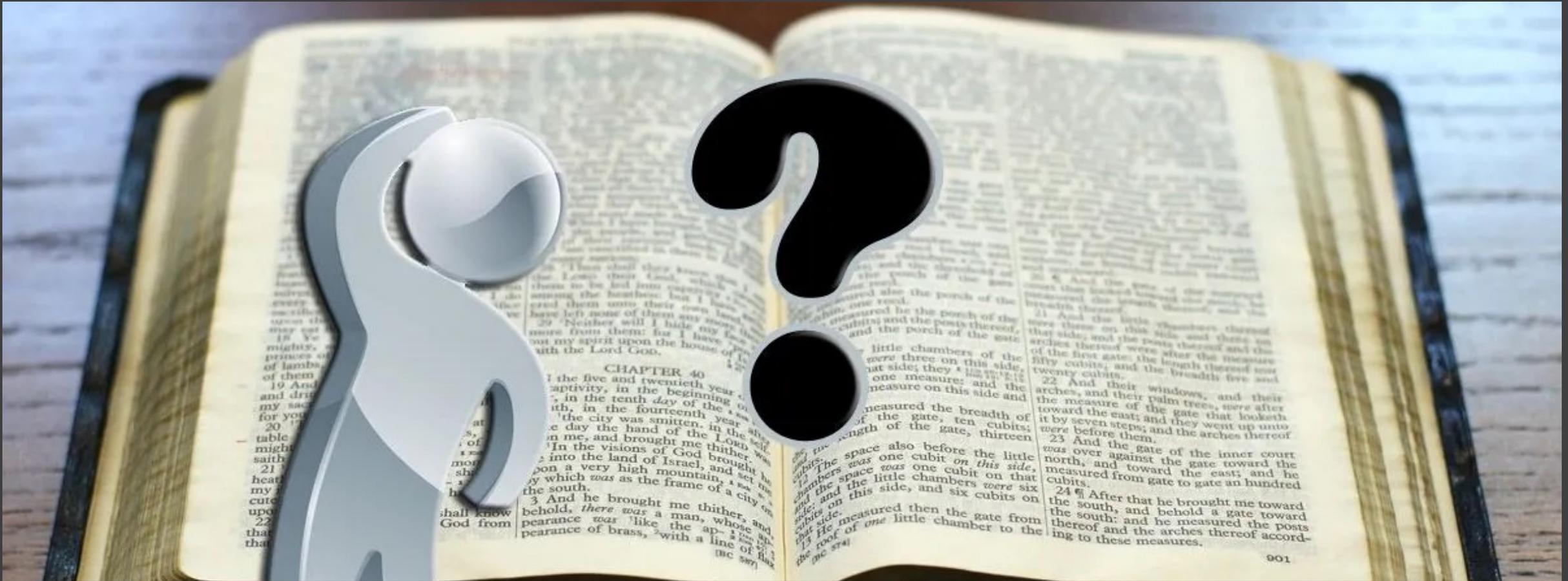
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Now to Galatians!

Galatians 1: 1 (NIV)

*Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but **by Jesus Christ** and God the Father, who raised him from the dead*



Why does Paul say he was sent by Jesus Christ?



Turn to:
Acts 9: 15

Acts 9: 15 (NIV)

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.”

Galatians 1: 1 (NIV)

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead



Turn to:
Revelation 2: 8

Revelation 2: 8 (NIV)

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.



Turn to:
Revelation 2: 8

Revelation 2: 8 (NIV)

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.



Turn to:
Revelation 1: 17-18

Revelation 1: 17-18 (NIV)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Joseph Smith (Mormon) – Dead

Muhammad (Islam) -Dead

Charles Russell (Jehovah's Witness)-Dead

Confucius (Confucianism) -Dead

Gautama Buddha (Buddhism)-Dead

Jesus— Alive!

Right off the bat Paul is making it clear he has been sent by Jesus, and Jesus is alive!

Galatians 1: 2 (NIV)

*and all the brothers and sisters with me,
To the churches in Galatia:*

Galatians 1: 3a (NIV)

Grace and peace to you



What is grace?



What is peace?

Peace

Greek: Eirene

- A quietness of soul
- Sabbath
- A rest
- To have made up or settled the dispute



Where does grace and peace come from?

Galatians 1: 3 (NIV)

*Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*



Turn to:
John 1: 17

John 1: 17 (NIV)

*For the law was given through
Moses; grace and truth came through
Jesus Christ.*

Galatians 1: 3 (NIV)

*Grace and peace to you from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Galatians 1: 4a (NIV)

who gave himself for our sins

Paul is opening his letter by making the point that it is Jesus Christ who saves us from our sins, not our deeds or works!

Failure to understand this foundational truth has led to the false teachings this church was struggling with!

Galatians 1: 4 (NIV)

*who gave himself for our sins to
rescue us from the present evil
age,* according to the will of our God and
Father,



Is our present age evil?



Are we also rescued from this evil age today?



Who desires to rescue us
from this evil age?

Galatians 1: 4 (NIV)

who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Galatians 1: 5 (NIV)

*to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Galatians 1: 6 (NIV)

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

Greek: Metatithemi

Deserting

- To transfer your hope
- To change sides

Galatians 1: 6 (NIV)

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



What gospel are they turning to?

Many were turning away
from the New Testament
Grace back to the Old
Testament Law!



Turn to:
Ephesians 2: 8-10

Ephesians 2: 8-10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.



What happens when we base our salvation on our works?

Ephesians 2: 8-10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2: 8-10 (NIV)

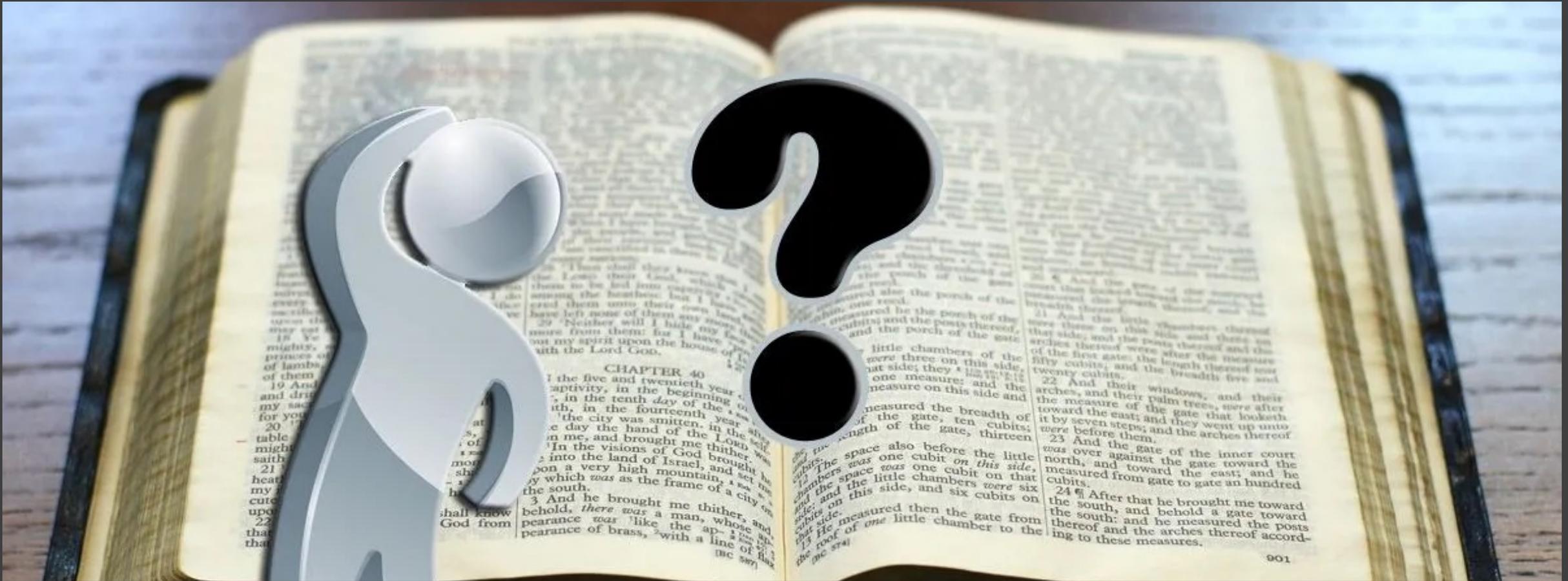
For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Galatians 1: 6 (NIV)

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

Galatians 1: 7 (NIV)

which is really no gospel at all.
*Evidently some people are throwing you
into confusion and are trying to
pervert the gospel of Christ.*



Are some perverting the
gospel of Christ today?



|

How?



Turn to:
Hebrews 13: 9a

Hebrews 13: 9a (NIV)

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace



Turn to:
Matthew 24: 11

Matthew 24: 11 (NIV)

*and many false prophets will appear
and deceive many people.*



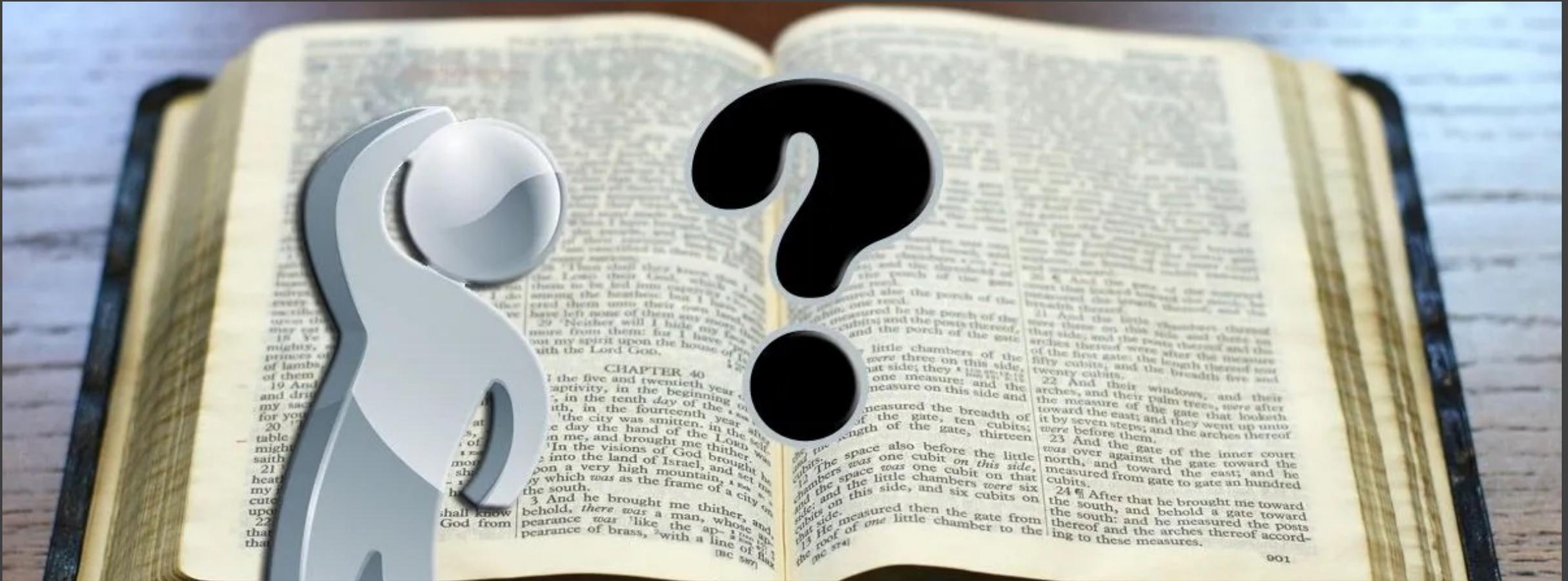
Turn to:
2 Peter 2: 1

2 Peter 2: 1 (NIV)

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you.

2 Peter 2: 1 (NIV)

*They will **secretly** introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.*



Why do they introduce false teachings in secret?

**BEWARE: COMPROMISE AND SIN
ARE THE VERY SAME WAY!**

**We don't
realize that
something
is wrong
until it is
too late!**





Turn to:
1 Timothy 4: 1

1 Timothy 4: 1 (NIV)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

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Back to Galatians!

Galatians 1: 8 (NIV)

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!



What is the curse of God?

Greek: anathema

Cursed

- Cursed by God
- Appointed to damnation
- Reserved for judgement

Galatians 1: 8 (NET)

*But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be condemned to hell!***



How serious was correct doctrine to Paul?



Why is doctrine so important?



Turn to:
Jude 1: 3-4, 12-13

Jude 1: 3 (NIV)

*Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you **to contend for the faith** that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.*



What does it mean to
“contend for the faith”?

Jude 1: 4 (NIV)

*For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago **have secretly slipped in among you.***

Jude 1: 4 (NIV)

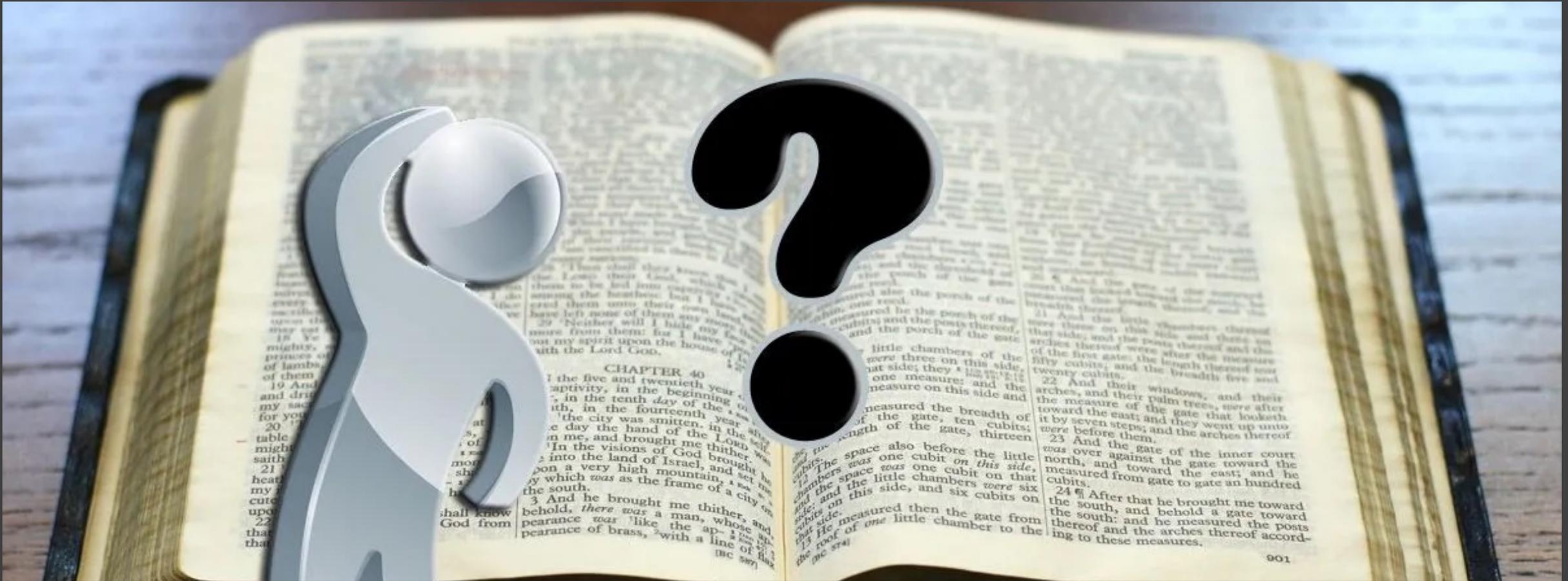
They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude 1: 12 (NIV)

These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

Jude 1: 13 (NIV)

*They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, **for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.***



What awaits these false prophets?

Galatians 1: 8 (NIV)

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!

Galatians 1: 9 (NIV)

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!

Galatians 1: 10a (NIV)

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people?



Who do false prophets typically want to please?



Turn to:
2 Timothy 4: 1-4

2 Timothy 4: 1-4 (NIV)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Timothy 4: 1-4 (NIV)

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4: 1-4 (NIV)

*Instead, to suit their own desires, they
will gather around them a great
number of teachers to say what their
itching ears want to hear. They will
turn their ears away from the truth
and turn aside to myths.*



Can a preacher or teacher teach doctrine that pleases people?

Galatians 1: 10 (NIV)

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people?

If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.