



Galatians

Galatians 1:1-5

Galatians – strong language and clear truths

- cannot miss Paul's deep concern and desire for clarity
- passion jumps off the pages
- Acts 13-14 Paul & Barnabas missionary journey
- Galatia – Roman Province, region they started churches in
- Having left – new teachers rising to prominence
- Gentile Christians being taught to keep regulations of Judaism alongside belief in Christ
- adding to the gospel, disciples of Jesus and.....

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 brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 1:1-5

1. Establishing Authority

- who is talking changes how we listen

a) Paul

- history of the man named Saul

- persecuted Christians – killing of Stephen – Acts 7:54 – 8:3

- dramatic conversion – Acts 9:1-9

- commissioned by God – Acts 9:6, 15-16 *“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

“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. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

b) an apostle

- literally – ‘one sent’
- N.T. Usages – general & specific
 - general – sent by a group on a mission
 - Phil. 2:25, 2 Cor. 8:23
 - specific – called by Jesus – set apart for specific role
 - chosen and commissioned by Christ – qualified by having seen him alive after the cross
 - 1 Cor. 1:9, 1 Cor. 15:8-9, Eph 2:20
- significant that Paul includes himself in the group called by Jesus carrying a commission and authority from God

c) called by God

- not reporting back to men on this, not sent by men
- authority is given by the one who has power over death
- tasked by Jesus
- confirmed by those I serve alongside – part of the family

2. Reaffirming What Has Been Extended to Us

- interesting to note Paul deviates from his usual greetings
- establishes right off that this discussion will stay focused on the gospel and our response

a) Grace

- unmerited favor

- mercy – not receiving what I do deserve
- grace – receiving what I could not earn, qualify for, deserve, be worthy of – gift to you
- God in his Love has chosen to – forgive, redeem, indwell and empower you.

b) Peace

- shalom – wholeness and at rest
- John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*
- peace with God, with ourselves and with others

c) From God Through Jesus and the Cross

- will of the Father
- work of the Son
- given for you and I

3. Confirming the Why

- important to reaffirm the why often

a) deliver us from the present evil age

- John 17:15 *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it “*

- our world is under the curse – groaning for redemption
- we are enslaved to sin – unable to choose holiness, without ability to stand against our enemy without Jesus
- we are just passing through this place and time, awaiting eternity

b) according to the will of God our Father

- don't miss this – God is enacting his will

c) to Him be glory forever and ever

- not for our personal pleasure, not all about me
- meant to show God's glory and reflect that

So What

1. Galatians has Authority for us Today
2. Be Reminded of Your Position
 - Grace been extended
 - Peace is yours
 - God paid the Price
3. Ask for Ears to Hear and Eyes to See
 - the evil age around us – and God's plan for redemption
 - the will of God revealed in His work and word
 - the glory of God to be reflected in your response