

Galatians 1:1–5

- ¹ 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,
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.

The Authority of the Messenger and the Message
Galatians 1:1-5

INTRO:

What do you do when someone you have invested time and ministry in, departs from the truth of the Gospel? This was the problem Paul faced here in Galatians. The churches of Galatia were probably the first churches he and Barnabas started on their first missionary journey, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. These were churches in which Paul and Barnabas invested, time, suffering, and even blood. Still, when the false teachers came allegedly from James, they fell prey to a “*different*” gospel that was no Gospel at all. Paul began his letter by emphasizing the messengers of the Gospel were God authorized men who carried the vital truth to them.

- I. Paul, the Apostle (v. 1-2)*
II. The Vital Message (v.3-5)

I. Paul, the Apostle (v. 1-2)

Galatians 1:1-2 “*Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me.”*

A. The important thing both the original recipients of this letter and we need to recognize is that the message presented to the Galatian churches was not just made up. It was and is God’s message delivered by God’s uniquely authorized and empowered messenger. Paul began by identifying himself as an apostle, a called man set apart with authority.

1. Paul was not an apostle because some human made him one. No bishop, pope or other apostle made him an apostle. His apostleship was from Jesus Christ and God the Father.

2. Paul saw the risen Lord Jesus, a requirement if one were to be an apostle. In **1 Corinthians 15:8-9**, Paul wrote about it.

"Then last of all [Christ] was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Paul's apostolic call is borne out in his life. He endured all the sufferings catalogued in **2 Corinthians 11** because he was an Apostle.

B. Why is this important? Because the message of the Gospel of the grace of God did not come through men or anyone authorized by man. It came by the revelation of God.

C. Further it is attested by other believers "**and all the brethren who are with me.**" This does not mean the latest poll among Christians approve what Paul wrote. Rather Paul will make the point that the gospel Paul preached is the same Gospel the other Apostles proclaimed.

II. The Vital Message (v.3-5)

"To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

A. Paul penned his message to a group of churches in the Roman Province of Galatia. Most likely these are the very first churches Paul and Barnabas planted in Asia Minor.

B. Paul wrote because he wanted them to experience the grace and peace which can only come from God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Do we recognize the wonder of the words of this greeting?

C. Paul continued to describe exactly where grace and peace come from.

"Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from this present evil age."

Grace is a blessing we do not deserve. We deserve death and hell. We, who have put our faith in Christ, will never receive what we deserve. Because Jesus gave Himself for our sin. Grace is what God the Son bought for us. Grace is what God the

Father gives us. The grace Christ gives us also is designed to deliver us from living in the evil age.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from this present evil age,”

How does this work? Titus 2:11-14 tells us,

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

D. Peace with God comes from this same place. Paul said in

Romans 4:23–5:2: *“Now it was not written for his sake alone that [righteousness] was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

E. God should be glorified through all eternity because He saved us. Grace to you and glory to Him.

What Do We Learn from This?

1. The Gospel was not given by man or angels or anything else. God by His grace designed it. God sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to accomplish it by dying for us and rising again. Salvation can only be had in Christ. As John reminded us in 1 John 5:11-12, *“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

2. This salvation in Christ should change us and help us live for Him so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17).

Hymn #405 My Faith Has Found a Resting Place