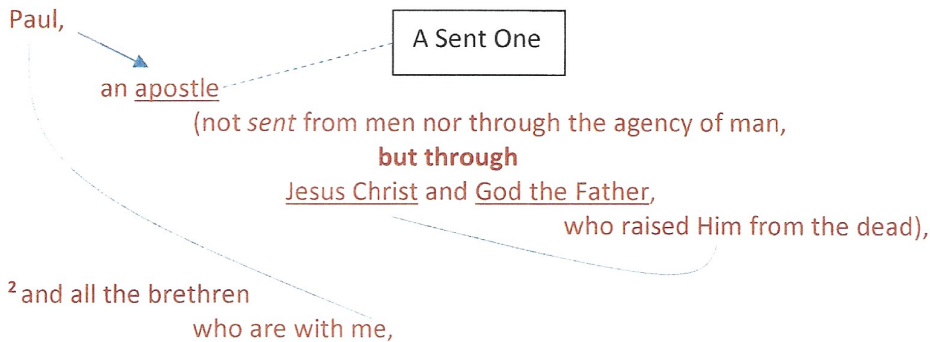


The One True Gospel

Galatians 1:1-5

God Calls His People

Galatians 1:1-2 (NASB95) – Who Am I?



At the beginning of the letter Paul establishes who he is. Paul describes himself as an apostle who travels with fellow believers.

1. Paul is an apostle. Apostle literally means “one who is sent” as sent on a mission. Apostle is the root word for “missionary”. And not to be confused about what type of Apostle he is...Paul explains that he was directly sent out by Jesus and not by man.
 - a. Ephesians 2:10 (NASB95): *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*
 - b. Ephesians 2:19-22 (NASB95): ¹⁹*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*
 - c. As we see from Ephesians 2, Paul is confident in who he is in Christ. We too can be confident in who we are in Christ.
2. It’s also important to note that Paul did not travel alone. God has always faithfully given us fellow believers; to encourage, hold accountable, to bear one another’s burdens, etc. We can learn from Paul that we need the church. Because part of who we are...is a member of a family.
 - a. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB95): ²³*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

To recap, we see that Paul is embracing who he is in Christ and the importance of serving with fellow believers.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Paul was confident in who he is in Christ. How does Ephesians 2:10 help reveal who we are in Christ?
- ❖ According to Ephesians 2:19-22 Christ is the cornerstone. Why should our life be built on Christ?
- ❖ Paul didn’t travel alone. What does Hebrews 10:23-25 teach us about being involved with fellow believers?

Galatians 1:2-5 (NASB95) – What is the Gospel?

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace **from** God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
⁴who gave Himself for our sins **so that**
He might rescue us **from**
this present evil age, **according**
to the will of our God and Father,
⁵to whom *be the glory forevermore.*

Paul is specifically writing a letter to the churches of Galatia. As we learned last week this includes but may not be limited to Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Once Paul establishes who the letter is written to ...he enters into a typical Pauline greeting.

Paul simply states “grace to you and peace”. These two words are extremely powerful and cannot be overlooked.

Grace: When the Bible speaks of being saved by grace it’s defining grace as unmerited favor. Grace is a powerful word because it speaks of favor and freedom. Grace gives us the favor of God and allows us to experience freedom from the bondage of sin.

Peace: Peace would be a desperate desire for the believers in Galatia. But the beauty of God’s peace is that it surpasses all understanding. Philippians 4:6.

Paul reminds the believers in Galatia that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are the source of grace and peace. Throughout life we will be tempted to seek favor and peace from any other place rather than God. We will be tempted to find our favor and peace with man, entertainment, looks, jobs, homes and the like. But we must remind ourselves that ONLY God Himself provides favor and peace. 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Who is this Jesus?

Paul goes on to describe Jesus to the people of Galatia. And I’m sure he spent many hours describing Jesus to them on his two missionary journeys, therefore, I’d say this is a reminder.

So, what is Paul reminding them about Jesus specifically? That Jesus:

- *Gave Himself for our sins* (WHY)
 - *To rescue us* (FROM)
 - *This evil age* (HOW)
 - *According to the will of our God and Father* (To WHOM)
 - *Be glory forevermore, Amen.*

Paul reminded the churches in Galatia that Jesus gave us The One True Gospel. The One True Gospel was God’s plan to rescue us from the wages of sin. Therefore...to Him be the glory forevermore. The One True Gospel is centered upon Jesus and His life, burial and resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that Grace and Peace come directly from God?
- ❖ What does Galatians 1:4-5 teach us about what Jesus did on our behalf?
- ❖ According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, what are acts of Christ that define the gospel?