

Galatians 1:4-5 — “The Ultimate Thanksgiving — Recognizing & Feasting Upon Christ’s Work!”

I will GIVE THANKS to the LORD with all my heart!

— PSALM 9:1

- It’s good to give thanks in the great congregation (Ps 35.18)
- Give thanks to the LORD (Psalm 136.1)
- Jesus models the importance of giving thanks (Mark 8 & Luke 22)
- Rom 6 - the ultimate: give thanks that though you were slaves to sin you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed” (Rom 6.17)
- Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in CHRIST (2 Cor 2:14)
- Let us give thanks FOR ONE ANOTHER in our local congregation! (1 Thess 1:2)

THESIS — Galatians 1.3-5 will give us a reason to give thanks!

The Substitution of Jesus Christ -- in 4 headings.

I. THE SON’S INITIATIVE (4a)

Who gave Himself... [what humiliation]

II. THE SON’S SUBSTITUTION (4b)

For our sins [what substitution]

1. It includes *Representation* - Jesus represents us.
2. It includes *Substitution* -- Jesus takes our place
3. It includes *Satisfaction* -- Jesus exhausts wrath.
4. It includes *Perfection* -- Jesus perfected redemption.

At the cross, our sin became Christ’s sin, our blameworthiness became Christ’s blameworthiness, the wrath we deserve from an infinitely just Being became the wrath He absorbed from an infinitely just Being (Thaddeus Williams).

If Christ be not the Substitute, He is nothing to the sinner. If He did not die as the Sin-bearer, He has died in vain.... The very essence of Christ’s deliverance is the substitution of Himself for us, His life for ours. He did not come to risk His life; He came to die! He did not redeem us by a little loss, a little sacrifice, a little labor, a little suffering. “He redeemed us to God by his blood,” “the precious blood of Christ” (Rev 5:9; 1Pe 1:19). He gave all He had, even His life, for us. (Horatius Bonar)

III. THE SON’S RESCUE (4c)

So that he might rescue us from this present age [what redemption]

IV. THE SON’S PLAN (4d)

According to the will of our God & father [what glorification]

Note the substitution of Jesus was:

- Voluntary (He gave Himself; He laid down...)
- Effectual (perfect)
- Purposeful (for a reason)
- Theocentric (for GOD; according to the will of God)

v.5 – to God be the glory!

For application:

- The Substitution of Jesus is to **ENCOURAGE YOU EACH DAY.**
- The Substitution of Jesus is to **LAUNCH YOU TO WORSHIP.**
- The Substitution of Jesus is to **FILL YOU WITH GRATITUDE.**
- The Substitution of Jesus is to **REASSURE YOU IN DOUBTS.**
- The Substitution of Jesus is to **BIND US IN CLOSE UNITY.**

What a mystery of mercy is this! We have no righteousness of our own. Our best is but as filthy rags. God requires a righteousness, and one that will meet all the demands of His law, and satisfy His impartial justice, in order to our justification. Jesus, therefore, came to do, and to suffer, all that was necessary to make us righteous, divinely righteous. The righteousness of God, or, as righteous as He is righteous. The righteous of God in Him.

We now, therefore become righteous, perfectly righteous, not by obeying the law, but by faith in Christ, union to Christ, and participation with Christ. Faith brings us to Christ, the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ, and then we participate in all Christ has. His life is our righteousness, His death is our atonement, His intercession is our salvation. He took our place that we might take His. He came to toil for us that we may rest with Him. He sorrowed for us that we may rejoice with Him. He died for us that we may live with Him. Blessed Redeemer, how wondrous your love! How perfect your work!

— James Smith (*The Marvelous Exchange*)

COME THOU FOUNT

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the name! I'm fixed upon it
Name of Thy redeeming love

Hitherto Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN [NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD]

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev’ry bitter thought,
Ev’ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
”Finished!” the vict’ry cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death;
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

FINAL CHORUS:

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things he hath done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his
voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people
rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.