

“To God Be The Glory!”
Galatians 1:1-5

Introduction:

1. Please Head Over With Me This Morning:
 - Finally – To The Book Of Galatians!
 - To The First Chapter Of The Book Of Galatians!
 - Now - We Have Spent Some Time:
 - Over The Last Two Months - Learning More About:
 - To Whom The Letter Of Galatians Was Written!
 - Because In Acts 13-14:
 - Paul & Barnabas:
 - On Their First Missionary Journey Traveled Through The Roman Province Of Galatia:
 - And Visited 4 Major Cities There:
 - The Cities Of:
 - Antioch / Iconium / Lystra / And Derbe!
2. And Even Though There Was:
 - Great Opposition:
 - In Those Cities!
 - Even To The Point When Paul Was Even Stoned & Left For Dead Outside Of The Gates Of The City Of Lystra!
 - Even Through Persecution:
 - The Lord Formed Churches In Each One Of Those Cities:
 - Through The Power Of The Gospel:
 - That Was Preached Both Clearly & Completely By Paul & Barnabas!
3. Now - When We Left Them Last Week:
 - Paul & Barnabas Were Finishing Up This First Missionary Journey!
 - And As They Were Traveling Home:
 - They Re-Visited Those Newly-Formed Churches!
 - And - As It Says In Acts 14:23 - They:
 - “Ordained them elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, and commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed!”
 - Imagine What Must Have Been Thought & Felt At Those Final Meetings!
 - But It Was Time For Paul & Barnabas:
 - To Leave!
 - And For Some Time - And For Several Years - They Did Not See Nor Hear From Them!
4. But Even Though Their Beloved Apostles Were Not With Them:
 - It Is Clear That:
 - God Was Still Building His Churches There:
 - In Galatia!
 - And Even Though There Arose Some Major Concerns In Those Churches:
 - Which We Will See As We Continue Through This Letter!
 - Yet - When Paul Finally Writes To Them - He Addresses Them As:
 - “Churches!” True Churches!
5. And When These Churches & These Christians:
 - Finally Hear From Paul:
 - This Is What He Says To Them - In Verses 1:5:
 - “ Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)/ And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: / Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, / Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: / To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen!”
 - Now - Before We Look At The Rest Of The Letter:
 - Consider For A Moment How These Words Would Have Been Received By Those Galatian Churches:
 - When They Heard Them For The Very First Time!
 - It’s A Letter!
 - From Paul!
 - Our Beloved Friend & Spiritual Father In The Faith!

- What Joy Must Have Filled Their Hearts & Souls:
 - When They Started To Read These Words:
 - Directly From Paul!
- But It Wasn't Just Because Of The Author:
 - But Because Of The Attention:
 - He Was Placing On The Work That God Had Done In Their Lives!
 - In These First 5 Verses:
 - Paul Is Not Just Introducing Himself & His Letter To These Christians!
 - He Is Reminding Them Of The Great Blessings They Personally Received Through The Gospel He Had Preached Unto Them!
- 6. And Paul's Great Desire In These Verses:
 - And Really - Through The Whole Letter:
 - Is For The Lord To Receive Their Praise & Their Glory:
 - For All That He Did For Them!
 - And So That Will Be Our Task As Well:
 - This Morning!
 - To Review & To Remember Some Of The Great Blessings & Benefits We Have Received:
 - Through The Gospel!
 - Because - The Reason For So Many Problems:
 - That Enter Our Lives:
 - As Christians & As A Church:
 - Is Because We Too Often Forget:
 - Those Blessings!
 - Or We Take Them For Granted!
 - Instead - We Need To Remember Them:
 - And Respond As David Does In:
 - Psalm 103:1-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. / Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: / Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; / Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; / Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's!"
 - So - Like The Galatians:
 - We Must Never Forget:

1. ***The Calling Of God!***

- The Calling Of God:
 - Which Paul Was Reminding Them Of In:
 - 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)"
 - Paul Begins His Letter Here:
 - As Was Often Done During Those Times:
 - By Introducing Himself As The Author!
 - But - Because Of The Nature Of This Letter:
 - In Addressing Some Of The Major Problems:
 - That Had Surfaced In The Church Since He & Barnabas Left:
 - He Also Describes His Office:
 - He Was "An Apostle!"
 - The Term "Apostle" Simply Means A Messenger!
 - But For Paul & The Other "Apostles" In The NT:
 - It Also Is Used To Describe The Authority Granted To Them By The Lord Jesus:
 - To Serve As His Representatives & His Spokesmen!
 - So The Calling That Paul Had Was:
- A Dutiful Call!
 - He Had A Duty To Speak:
 - Not For Himself - But For The One Who Sent Him!
 - For The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - He Had A Duty To:
 - Remind Them Of The True Message Of The Gospel:

- Upon Which Their Churches Were Formed!
- With His Calling & With His Office:
 - Came A Great Responsibility:
 - To Faithfully Represent God & His Will!
 - But His Calling Was Also:
- A Direct Call!
 - Paul Reminds Us That He Became An Apostle:
 - “Not Of Men, Neither By Man!”
 - Or - “Not From Men, Neither Through A Man!”
 - Paul Did Not Receive This Office:
 - From Men!
 - Even Though He & Barnabas Had Been Sent By Their Church:
 - On That First Missionary Journey!
 - Yet He Was Not Primarily Their Ambassador:
 - He Was God’s!
 - But Neither Did Paul Receive This Office:
 - Through A Man!
 - God Didn’t Tell Someone Else To Call Paul For Him!
 - Like God Did With The Kings Of Israel! God Called King Saul & King David Through His Prophet Samuel!
 - Their Call Was Indirect!
 - Paul’s Call Was Direct! But It Was Also:
 - A Divine Call!
 - He Was “An Apostle – By Jesus Christ, And God The Father, Who Raised Him From The Dead!”
 - First - What We Can See Here - Is That Paul Believed That Jesus Christ Was No Ordinary Man!
 - But - Was In Fact - God In The Flesh!
 - He’s Saying - “I Did Not Become An Apostle By Men!”
 - “But By Jesus Christ, And God The Father!”
 - He Identifies Jesus, Not With Men, But With God!
 - The Call That Paul Received:
 - On The Road To Damascus:
 - Was Not From Any Mortal Man!
 - It Was From God!
 - It Was From The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Although Paul Is Introducing Himself In This Way:
 - To Establish His Own Authority For The Rest Of The Letter:
 - I Believe He Was Also Reminding Those Galatian Churches – And Even Us Today:
 - Of Our Own Special Calling As Christians!
 - Peter Describes This Calling In 1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!”
 - Every Christian Has Received This Special Calling!
 - And Although We Are Not “Apostles” In The Same Sense As Paul!
 - Yet We Have All Been Called & Sent:
 - To Share The Message Of The Gospel With Others!
 - And We Too Have A Duty!
 - To Not Change That Message, But To Maintain That Message:
 - Both Clearly & Completely!
 - And Our Call - Like Paul’s & The Other Apostles:
 - Is Direct & It Is Divine!
 - God Himself Has Called Us To Be His Children!
 - And Part Of Our Message Is:
 - What Paul States In The Last Part Of Verse 1:
 - “Who Raised Him From The Dead!”
 - We All Serve A Risen, Living Savior!
 - And His Life Gives Our Lives Purpose!
 - So That - “Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!” (Romans 6:4)

- And That Includes:
 - Adhering Closely To The Purity Of The Gospel!
- But We Must Never Forget - As Paul Never Forgot:
 - The Great Blessing Of:
 - The Calling Of God!

* Another Great Blessing - That We Must Never Forget Is:

2. ***The Company Of God!***

- The Company Of God:
 - Which We Read About In:
 - 1:2 - "And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia!"
 - Paul Wasn't The Only One:
 - Who Wanted To Send His Greetings To:
 - These Christians & These Churches!
 - There Were Others!
 - And Likely - Many Others!
 - Barnabas Would Have Been One, For Sure!
 - But There Were Probably Others Who:
 - Had Traveled With Paul:
 - And Knew Some Of Those Galatian Christians Personally!
 - But Most Of These Others:
 - Had Probably Only Heard About Them!
 - But Wanted To Share Their Love For Them As Well!
 - We Must Never Forget The Great Blessing:
 - That God Gives To Every Christian:
 - Through The Church! For It Is:
- A Special Family!
 - The Term Paul Uses Is:
 - "Brethren!"
 - A Word That Reminds Us Of A Family Relationship!
 - That Is What Took Place:
 - When Those Galatians Believed & Jesus Christ & Were Saved!
 - They Were Given A New Home In Heaven!
 - But They Were Also Given A New Family On Earth!
 - It Is A Special Family:
 - To Love / To Pray For & With / To Encourage:
 - And To Serve!
 - 1 Peter 3:8, Peter Also Tells Us To - "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous!"
 - Many Problems Within Churches:
 - Could Be Prevented & Corrected:
 - If We Remember That We Are "Brethren" & Treat One Another The Way Peter Tells Us!
 - But Also - Within This Family - There Can Be:
- A Special Fellowship!
 - In Verse 2 - Paul Says - "All The Brethren Which Are With Me!"
 - There Was A Special Fellowship:
 - In Paul's Church!
 - They Were Together!
 - Not Just Together In Body:
 - But In Spirit!
 - They Were There For Each Other!
 - This Was Certainly The Spirit:
 - They Needed In The Galatian Churches As Well!
 - As We Read In Hebrews 10:24-25:
 - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: / Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching!"

- We Must Not Starve Ourselves:
 - From The Great Blessing God Offers Through Christian Fellowship!
- With This Simple Greeting:
 - Paul Reminds Us To Never Forget:
 - The Great Blessing Of:
 - The Company & The Family Of God!

* Another Great Blessing - That We Must Never Forget Is:

3. ***The Comfort Of God!***

- The Comfort Of God:
 - Which We Find In:
 - 1:3 - "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - This Verse Is In The Form Of:
 - A Prayer & A Blessing!
 - But Even Though This Is Such A Common Way For Paul To Begin His Letters:
 - And It Is So Easy For Us To Overlook It:
 - It Offers To Us Some More Great Comforts & Blessings That God Offers To All Who Are His Children!
 - Like The Comfort Of:
 - His Gracious Favor!
 - "Grace To You" – Paul Says & Prays!
 - "God's Grace!"
 - God Is A Gracious God!
 - And That Grace & Favor Was Lavishly Bestowed Upon Those Churches!
 - The Grace Of Salvation!
 - The Grace Of Protection!
 - The Grace Of Provision!
 - And His Grace Is Continually Dispensed:
 - To Us Today!
 - It Is A "Marvelous, Infinite, Matchless Grace, Freely Bestowed On All Who Believe!"
 - Have You Forgotten The Gracious Favor Of God:
 - In Our Life?
 - It Is Sometimes Easy For Us To Do So!
 - When Something Else Doesn't Seem To Go Our Way:
 - Or According To Our Own Plan!
 - Yet, God's Grace Continues To Flow:
 - And To Be Shown To Us In Innumerable Ways!
 - If Only We Will See It!
 - Never Forget:
 - The Gracious Favor Of God!
 - And Give Him All The Glory!
 - But We Also Have The Comfort Of:
 - His Gracious Peace!
 - "And Peace From God The Father, And From Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - A "Peace . . . Which Passeth All Understanding!" (Philippians 4:7)
 - A Peace That Is Deeper & Stronger:
 - Than Anything That Tries To Take Away That Peace!
 - This Would Have Been Especially Meaningful:
 - For Those Galatian Christians!
 - Because Their Churches Were Formed In The Midst Of Great Struggle & Persecution!
 - Never Forget What Jesus Said In John 14:27:
 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!"
- There Is Great Comfort:
 - In The Grace & Peace Of God!
 - Never Forget These Blessings & Benefits!

* A Final Great Blessing - That We Must Never Forget Is:

4. *The Charity Of God!*

- The Charity Of God:
 - His Great Love As Displayed To Us Through The Gospel!
 - As We Read In 1:4 - "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father!"
 - In This Introduction:
 - Paul Reminds Them Of The Most Important Thing:
 - And That Is The Gospel:
 - Which Makes All Of These Blessings & Benefits Possible In The First Place!
 - How Many Times To We Forget:
 - The Simple Truths Of The Gospel!
 - And How They Show To Us The Great, Great Love Of Jesus!
 - God's Great Love Is Shown Through:
- A Great Death!
 - Referring To Jesus - Paul Reminds Us In 1:4:
 - "Who Gave Himself For Our Sins!"
 - This Is At The Very Center Of The Gospel!
 - The Cross!
 - The Reason For The Cross:
 - "Our Sins!"
 - The Love At The Cross:
 - Jesus "Gave Himself!"
 - This Was The Message Paul Had Preached To Them:
 - Over & Over Again!
 - As Jesus Said In John 15:13:
 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends!"
 - But - Jesus Laid Down His Life Even When We Were Sinners!
 - Romans 5:8 - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"
 - God's Great Love Is Also Shown Through:
- A Great Deliverance!
 - "That He Might Deliver Us From This Present Evil World!"
 - Not Only Does God Promise To Save / Deliver Us:
 - From Our Sin & The Penalty For That Sin!
 - But One Day - He Will Ultimately Save / Deliver Us:
 - From The Very Presence Of Sin:
 - And From All Of The "Evils" That Befall Us In This World Today!
 - Again - A Word Of Home & Comfort:
 - To Those Galatian Christians:
 - Who Were Born Again In The "Days Of Adversity!"
 - And This Is All According To:
- A Great Design!
 - "According To The Will Of God And Our Father!"
 - God's Plan & Purpose Has Been To Save / Deliver His People:
 - From The Very Beginning!
 - God Was Not Reactive:
 - But Is Very Proactive!
 - And His Will Displays His Great Love For Every One Of His Children!
- How Often Do We Forget The Great Charity / Love Of God?
 - How Many Times Do We Doubt It?
 - Never Forget - Ephesians 2:4-7 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, / Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) / And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: / That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus!"

Conclusion:

1. Oh How We Need To Remember:

- These Great Blessings From God!
 - His Calling!
 - His Church!
 - His Comfort!
 - His Charity!
- Those Galatian Churches Sure Needed To!
 - But How Much More Do We Even Today!
 - But What Should We Do When We Remember Them?
- As We Sing In The Doxology:
 - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!"
 - And That Is What Paul Does In:
 - 1:5 - "To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen!"

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