

Galatians 1:1-5 – God Salutes His Children

Luther, TSK, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Vincent, Gray, JFB, Geneva, Family, Robertson, Poole, Handfuls, Lightfoot, Expositor, Clarke, Henry, Calvin
Beloved in the Lord: **After Apostle Paul left the Galatian churches to go on other missions, some sneaky snakes moved into those churches and started to cause trouble.**

These snakes, who were Jews and were called Judaizers, **did not believe in salvation by grace through faith alone in Christ alone, but taught that keeping the law – especially keeping the ceremonial laws – like requiring circumcision – was necessary for salvation.**

Moreover, because these snakes believed in salvation by works, they hated the Gospel of Jesus Christ which required men merely receive what Christ had done for them. These snakes were biological descendants of Abraham, but they were not his spiritual descendants.

This deception and pressure caused some Galatian Christians to start to have some doubts about salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone and they started to keep the ceremonial laws which were already fulfilled by Christ.

We will start today by hearing God's salutation to Christians in Corinth before he dealt with the pressing issue.

Our headings are:

God's Speaker

God's Salutation

Our goals are: **That you will remember God has declared you are justified forever, and any correction he gives you now, he gives you as a loving Father, not as a condemning judge.**

God's Speaker

1 **Paul, an apostle** (not from men nor through man, **but through Jesus Christ** and God the Father who **raised Him from the dead**),

1. This letter was written by the Apostle Paul using his own hand which meant it was a more personal letter.

2. Paul was an apostle.

What does "apostle" mean? "Apostle" means "sent one."

There are some today who claim to be apostles... mostly to get control of other people and squeeze them for money. Those people are not apostles at all but

charlatans and frauds. **Others who claim to be apostles may just be ignorant of the Bible.**

An apostle was one who was saw Jesus and was directly called by Jesus to speak authoritatively on Jesus' behalf. So as an apostle, Apostle Paul authoritatively taught the Galatians what Jesus directly commanded.

While the Apostle Paul did not see Jesus in his humiliation (human form), he saw him in his glorification!

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

Acts 22:15 'For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

This Christ-given authority negated the argument the false teachers who had crept into the church were making, saying that Apostle Paul's teaching had major errors.

How sad those who claimed to be God's people were attacking God's message!

3. What is the message of the apostles, including the Apostle Paul, were sent to proclaim?

Jesus came to save sinners by his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

4. If any of these things is missing from the Gospel, then the message is invalid, and if anything is included alongside these things, the message is invalid.

5. This means Pastor Mitchell isn't and cannot be an apostle, even if I lived a perfect life.

I have not met Jesus directly, and I have not been directly commissioned by the Lord Jesus.

I speak authoritatively on his behalf but **I have derived authority from the apostles.**

2 and all **the brethren who are with me,** To the **churches of Galatia:**

6. This letter also came from all the brethren, likely those who were ministering with Apostle Paul in his new mission.

This showed the unity of brothers with Apostle Paul and the continuing desire to see the whole world believe the same Gospel.

This showed Apostle Paul's humility.

This showed multiple witnesses established something more firmly.

7. This message came to the churches in Galatia, so it was read from one church to another.

8. Lessons:

a. When God's servants speak – speak the words of Christ, listen. If it for your own good. It will lead to life in Jesus and your growing in grace.

b. The authority of any deacon, elder, or minister is grounded on Christ. No one is to take these offices to himself. **No one must ordain himself to these offices.** God calls leaders through this church.

Hebrews 5:4 *And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.*

c. Avoid those “one-man shows” and other fakes. They are not to be trusted. They are dangerous to the cause of Christ.

d. Work for unity in doctrine within the churches. Don't get hung up on traditions that might be common to a culture, and don't ever stop convincing others of true doctrine.

God's Salutation

3 **Grace** to you and **peace** from **God the Father** and our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. What is a salutation?

First, think of the most common salute in this world: the military salute. In a military salute, the soldier raises and exposes the palm of his right hand to show he has no weapon and poses no danger to the one he salutes.

This is what the superior spiritual officer is doing to Christians – he is showing he, who represents God - has nothing against them.

2. More Apostle Paul wishes grace and peace to his brothers with God Almighty in his salutation.

Grace is the greatest gift of God to man. It is giving man what he does not deserve...not in the least!

Peace is the greatest gift experienced by man – a peace that comes through grace.

These pleasant things would make it easier when he has to speak of harsher things, like when Apostle Paul called them “foolish Galatians.”

3. This grace and peace came from the Father.

There is no other way for grace from God and the resulting peace with him.

This is the peace man needed the most....not peace with Rome...or with the Jews...or with the Russians...but with God.

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,

4. How did that grace come through the Lord Jesus Christ?

Jesus willingly gave himself on the cross for your sins. He was not compelled to die. Ephesians 5:2,25 1Timothy 2:6 Titus 2:14

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life** that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. **This command I have received from My Father.**"

This work of Christ delivered you from the control of the worldly elements – the Devil, the world, and your flesh. “Deliver” comes from a strong word that means **“to rescue someone who is trapped under someone’s power.”**

So you are delivered from the power of sin. Your sins were covered (expiation), and God’s anger was satisfied (propitiation).

God **delivered Jesus up to die** to **deliver us from death, sin, and hell!** Ephesians 1:7

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, **but delivered Him up for us all,** how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Colossians 1:13 **He has delivered us** from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

The Galatians were saved from tyranny, but now they were being fooled into returning to legal bondage! They wanted to earn that which was free.

In reality they were renouncing the deliverance which Christ gave them.

They ought instead to have fixed their eyes on the one who delivered them from hell and gave them grace...fixed their eyes on the one who ruled...showing the work Jesus did was done! They did not have to do anymore!

Hebrews 10:12 But this Man, after **He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down** at the right hand of God,

5. Your grace and peace came because it was God's will.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 **"This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.**

This reminder, which should have brought the Galatian Christians excitement, was going to clear the way to the argument Apostle Paul was going to make.

5 to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

6. Having received that grace and peace, They had to live for the glory of God, forever and ever!

And in fact, all of what the Apostle Paul was going to say in this letter was about the glory of God – including the coming rebuke!

7. Amen signified his desire that God would hear (So let it be!) and a declaration of a fact (This is true!)

In this case, it was a desire that all God's people would continue to give him glory forever.

This was Apostle Paul's desires...so he ends with "Amen."

8. Lessons:

a. It is a lot easier to teach and correct your brothers when you show the unity you have together in Jesus Christ. Christian correction is not for destruction but for construction – for building up in the faith.

b. Start with the positives! There is one who unites us and gives us hope! This is why a minister greets the congregation with grace and peace before preaching! He may be hard in what he says from God’s Word, but he reminds you that it is from the perspective of love and care. Grace and peace are not only needed, but they are pleasant fragrances to deal with harsh smells – harsh circumstances.

c. There is no unity without the death of Christ for sins – a death that delivered sinners from the tyranny of the Devil and the present age.

d. Personally, don’t try to have fake unity with others. Politeness is perverse if it leaves men in sin.

e. Every time you hear of God’s mercy and grace it must stir up within you to say, “Glory be to God!” So know your Bible well.

Conclusion:

Apostle Paul was called by God to speak God words of rebuke to the Galatian churches that had fallen prey to some Jewish false teachers.

But before he did so, Apostle Paul had to remind the church **God had declared them permanently justified and they need not worry when he would speak harsh words later to them.** The harsh words would not threaten their salvation, but rather, would urge them to purer life. More, they did not have to do anything for their salvation!

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Know God speaks authoritatively through his Word and through his ministers.

Listen to them. If you reject them, you are rejecting God. Listen to your Father!

2. Know God has justified you in Jesus Christ. You can never lose your salvation. The big matter has been resolved. Hell is no longer in the equation.

3. Know that God is angry when you allow yourself to be distracted by lies and false teachers. It is to your shame if you are distracted or deceived by lies from the mouths of false teachers. You won’t be able to do the work the Lord has called you to do.

4. Know your Bible well so you are not deceived. Truth will always stand up to scrutiny. Study God’s Word!

Finally: If you don't believe Jesus died on the cross for sinners, you are still in your sins and without hope. You are not justified. But if you call out to God and tell him you believe Jesus died for your sins, he will hear from heaven. He will heal your soul and clean you out! Don't leave this world in your filth. It is hell if you do.