

February 13, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 1:1-5

Galatians: Salutation

*“Justification by GRACE ALONE through FAITH ALONE
in the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ALONE.”*

I. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Defended** (1:1-2:21)

A. Introduction (1:1-9)

1. Salutation: The Ground of Grace (1:1-5)

a. Greeting (Ministry)

1) Author

2) Authority

3) Associates

Why no commendations like other Epistles?

b. Gospel (Message)

1) Status (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:2; and Phil. 1:2)

2) Substitute (Is. 53:4-6, 10-11; Jn. 1:29, 36; 10:14-18; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:6-11; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:23-28; 1 Pet. 2:24)

3) Savior (Jn. 3:16; 17:11, 14-18; Phil. 3:20-21; Heb. 10:4-10; 1 John 5:5)

4) Sovereign (Lk. 22:42; Jn. 1:12-13; Jn. 6:35-40; Acts 2:22-24; 13:48; Rom. 8:31ff)

c. Glory (Motive – Rom. 11:36; 16:25-27; Eph. 1:3-6; 3:21; Phil. 4:20; 1 Tim. 1:17; 2 Pet. 3:17-18; Jude 24-25; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:13; 7:9-12)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you know about the Apostle Paul? What was he like before his salvation? How did he come to saving faith? What changes occurred in his life after salvation?
2. Why does Paul point out that he is an apostle? Why does he emphasize that his apostleship did not come from men but directly from God? How important is this to his argument? What is the difference between an Apostle and an apostle? In what sense are all believers “apostles?”
3. Why doesn't Paul give any commendations to the churches of Galatia like he does in his other Epistles? He even commended the church in Corinth! What is the significance of this?
4. What is so significant about “grace and peace?” Why does Paul mention this in all of his Epistles? How do the two go together? Can you truly have peace without grace? If you have grace should you have peace?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is a “substitute” for us? Why is this critical to the gospel message? How does this connect with the Old Testament sacrificial system? According to Heb. 9-10 what could the Old Testament sacrifices not do for us?
6. We know that Jesus saves us to a future in Heaven with God, but what does He save us from? What will God's ultimate response be to this present evil age? (See 2 Pet. 3; 1 Jn. 2:15-17)
7. What does it mean that God is sovereign in salvation? Over what part of salvation is He sovereign? (See Jn. 1:12-13; Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:3ff; 2:8-10)
8. Have you ever questioned your salvation? Have you ever wondered if you needed to do something else beyond believing in Jesus? How does Galatians help you with those thoughts?