

February 20, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 1:3-5

The Gospel

*“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) – 1:1-2
 - b. Gospel (Message) – 1:3-4
 - 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) – 1:5 (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 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?
2. For each of the following questions find Bible verses to support your answers: What was your status with God prior to becoming a Christian (i.e., “enemy of God”)? What changed in your status with God when you became a Christian (i.e., “friend of God”)? What did you do to earn or deserve this?
3. 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?
4. 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)
5. 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; Rom. 8:28-39; Eph. 1:3ff; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)
6. 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?
7. Who do you know that does not have a thorough understanding of being saved by grace alone through faith alone in the finished work of Jesus Christ alone? PRAY for them, make a PLAN to meet with, and then PROCLAIM to them the truth about salvation. It is good news!