

February 27, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 1:3-5

The Gospel, Part Two

*“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 does the word “sovereign” mean? What are some synonyms for the word sovereign? How is it used in everyday language? How is it specifically used when applied to God in the Bible? (See Dan. 4:35; Ps. 115:3; 1 Tim. 6:15...)
2. The Bible says that God is sovereign in the exercise of His “power” (sometimes exercising great power in miracles and other times not), “mercy” (being merciful to some and not to others – Jn. 5:3-9), and “love” (loving some and not loving others - Rom. 9:13), and “grace.” If God is not sovereign in all of these things then who is? If God exercises mercy & grace because we deserve it, then is it truly mercy & grace?
3. 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) Why do people struggle with the idea of God being sovereign in salvation? How does Paul answer those concerns in Romans 9?
4. If God is sovereign over the entire process of salvation and it is entirely by grace (not works), then who gets the glory? What does it mean to “glorify” God? What examples can you find in the Bible of people giving glory to God? How many ways can you think of to give God glory? How specifically does a proper understanding of the Gospel motivate us to give God glory? How does your personal salvation testimony give God glory?
5. Write out your testimony (emphasizing that it was God that saved you) and practice sharing it with other believers. Refine it and then begin sharing it regularly with others that do not yet know the Savior! Pray to our Sovereign God that He would lead you to the particular people He wants you to speak to about Jesus and ask Him to grant them repentance that leads to eternal life (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
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!