

# Gal 1:1-5

## I. The People involved in the Epistle (1-2)

### A. Author(s) (1-2)

1. Paul - an apostle, one with apostolic authority
  - a) Not from man and not through man
    - (1) “from” = source/ultimate cause
    - (2) “through” = means/efficient cause
    - (3) Paul’s calling is not directly or even indirectly through humans
    - (4) Why is this important?
      - (a) The Gospel is not dependent on man
      - (b) answering detractors who say that Paul is not qualified because he does not come with credentials from Jerusalem
      - (c) The Gospel is not dependent on the messenger, the messenger is dependent on the Gospel
  - b) But through Jesus the Messiah and God the Father
    - (1) Father is described as “the One Who raised Him from the dead”
    - (2) Q- Why is He described this way?
    - (3) A- Resurrection clearly places the Galatians in the eschatological place in salvation history (not only reason)
      - (a) i.e. Justification is finished
      - (b) no need to find justification in the law
      - (c) Law no longer driving force in relationship to God
2. And all the brothers with me (2)
  - a) Q- Why does Paul mention them?
  - b) A- Paul is not alone in his position, the church is on his side

### B. Recipients (2)

1. To the Churches of the Galatians
  - a) Plural “churches”, cf. South Galatian theory
  - b) The problem is in the churches
    - (1) Genuine believers are the target of the enemy
      - (a) False teaching is aimed at the saints
      - (b) The devil does not spend his time tempting people in brothels and bars, but in churches
      - (c) “Scripture witnesses that antichrist does not sit in a stable of fiends or in a pigsty or in a company of unbelievers, but in the highest and holiest place of all, namely, in God’s temple.” Luther, 32
      - (d) The problem is not primarily Hollywood or Wall Street or Ottawa or Washington DC – these are just symptoms
        - (i) Historically understand that the sad state of these institutions is the indirect result of the failure of the churches and false problems sown in churches
        - (ii) These then grew to impact universities, that infiltrated elsewhere
        - (iii) But the problem started in the churches
      - (e) The solution, likewise is in the churches doing well, and all culture is then gradually impacted

## II. Greeting (3-4)

### A. General Greeting (3)

1. Grace and Peace to you
  - a) Standard (but profound) greeting for Paul
  - b) Adapting standard epistle greeting
  - c) Changes Chairein to Charis – for Christians, all is grace
  - d) Peace is Shalom- prosperity
  - e) To you
2. From God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
  - a) Our Father
    - (1)not everyone's Father
    - (2)only Father of those who have been adopted
  - b) Lord Jesus Christ
    - (1)Jesus is Lord – Master, this is assumed, never thoroughly explained
      - (a)The culture understood hierarchy – they were someone's servant, "you gotta serve somebody" – Bob Dylan
      - (b)In our culture, we need to be reminded constantly, we need to embrace the idea of being Christ's slave

### B. Specific Elaboration of the One Who gives grace and peace (4)

1. Cause: The one giving Himself on behalf of our sins
  - a) On behalf of, for the sake of, in someone else's interest
  - b) Gracious giving – we should respond with deep gratitude
  - c) Q- Why does Paul say this here?
    - (1)A- The real issue of the whole epistle is about sins that keep us from God – unrighteousness
    - (2)Against NPP – NOT about boundary markers, but broken relationship with God based on judicial guilt and moral defilement
    - (3)Sin = rebellion, de-godding God, idolatry of self, opposite of faith and love, breaking first commandment before breaking any others
2. Purpose:
  - a) So that He may rescue us from the present evil age
    - (1)To rescue, deliver, set free
    - (2)From the present evil age
      - (a)Present – now as opposed to the future age
      - (b)Evil, worthless, vicious, degenerate – not all completely bad, but partly completely bad, connected with sin
  - b) According to the will of our God and Father
    - (1)God's giving of Christ was all according to plan and purpose
    - (2)He is our God and Father

## III. Doxology (5)

### A. To Him be the glory forever and ever amen

1. Paul meant this, so should we
2. Not giving God glory (He already has it all)
  - a) But recognizing the fittingness/appropriateness, delighting in the fact that He is of the highest reputation
  - b) But also wishing and working toward everyone recognizing and acknowledging that He deserves all glory
3. Forever and ever