

January 18, 2015

“The Liberator - A Walk in Grace”

“So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free...” Galatians 5:1a (NLT)

Part 3

“What Happened?”

Galatians 1:1-2:10

“I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News” Galatians 1:6

A. Believed to be Paul’s earliest letter, he refers to his credentials for his authority...

1. He was called “apostle.”

“and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” 1 Corinthians 15:8

2. He was sent by God.

“...sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father...” vs 1:1

3. He was supported by the brothers in Christ.

“...and all the brothers...” vs 1:2

4. He refused to fall into the trap of a people-pleaser.

“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” vs 1:10

B. Paul’s passion for the faithfulness of his followers was evident...

1. Paul was shocked at how quickly they were trading truth.

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who call you by the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel – which is no gospel at all.” vs 1:6,7a

2. Paul was not reserved in holding them accountable and speaking directly to their need.

“Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.” vs 1:7b

3. Paul spoke confidently to them because he was confident in his calling.

“rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.” vs 1:12

4. Paul spoke confidently to them because he was passionate about truth.

“As we have already said, so now I say again; If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!” vs 1:9

C. The test of true doctrine is consistency...

1. If doctrine holds inconsistency; you can’t trust it, even if angels speak it!

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!” vs 1:8

2. If doctrine holds inconsistency; you cannot trust human reasoning as your source.

“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it;” vs 1:11,12a

3. If doctrine holds inconsistency; you cannot trust traditions as your basis.

“I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.” vs 1:14

4. Truth must be consistent with the truth of Jesus (“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.”

Matthew 5:18), all of Scripture (“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,” 2

Timothy 3:16), received by the fellowship of the body of Christ, (“James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship” vs 2:9a) and confirmed by transformed lives (“when they recognized the grace given to me.” vs 2:9b, “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” vs 1:23b).

D. Grace is evident in our lives...

1. Grace originates from God through Jesus Christ.

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,” vs 1:3

2. Grace calls us into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“...the one who called you by the grace of Christ...” vs 1:6b

3. Grace transforms us into a new creation.

“But when God...called me by his grace...” vs 1:15

4. Grace transforms us that we might share His grace with our world!

“...when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.” vs 2:9