

Grace + Anything = Nothing

Galatians Chapter 1

Ch. 1-2 Experience with Grace

Ch. 3-4 Doctrine of Grace

Ch. 5-6 Application of Grace

Paul Experienced Grace.

120 plus times mentions Grace in his epistles. Paul was not afraid to preach grace
Some are afraid of preaching Grace; afraid of a cheap grace that allows continued sin.

1st missionary journey Paul came to the region of Pamphylia to Perga specifically. Scholars believe that in this region was affected with malaria and that Paul contracted this malaria and retreated inland to higher ground. He went to the area of Galatia.

Galatians 4:13-14 "it was because of a bodily illness (weakness of the flesh) that I preached the gospel to you the first time; and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus himself."

This epistle is making war against legalism. (Grace plus anything) The Judiazers have followed Paul into the area teaching the new converts that they must fulfill the obligation of circumcision because Christianity is a sect of Judaism. This is our war also. We see the same principal attacking Christianity today. If Satan cannot cause you to compromise and sin he will push you into serving inappropriately. (Spiritual pride, works, comparing yourself to one another, religious ritual)

Gal 1:1 **1) The Picture of Grace** vs 1-5

Paul, an apostle (not {sent} from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

Gal 1:2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

- Paul introduces himself as an Apostle
 - One Sent Forth. A Messenger
 - Name written in the 12 foundation stones of the city (Rev.21:14)
 - The Authority to write scripture
 - The church is built on their foundation
- Today, They may be those used mightily in churches today. (Church Planters; Missionaries, Leaders in Major Movements) But they are not on the equivalency of the apostles we read about in the Bible.
Ephesians 4:11-13 "He gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers... for the equipping of the saints... until we all reach the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..." It is inconsistent to think that we are still in need of equipping but that one or two of these ministries no longer exist.
- Other Apostles in Scripture
 - Andronicus & Junias **Romans 16:7**
 - Barnabus **Acts 14:14**
 - James, the brother of Jesus **Galatians 1:19**
 - Epaphroditus **Philippians 2:25**
- What do Apostles do? Do they apostleize? Do they apost?
 - Pastors, they pastor
 - Teachers, they teach
 - Evangelists, they evangelize
 - Prophets, they prophecy

In realizing what was given to the church for it's building up we see that some of them are in contrast to each other. Pastors comfort with compassion, Prophets declare truth and expose error for the good of the church demanding action (bold and outspoken without compassion that could cause delay) Evangelists speak to the unsaved. Teachers speak to the saved.

Apostles are the ones who bring these all together for a common purpose.

Using Jesus & Paul as an examples

They are sent;	They have a message;
They are team builders;	They build UNITY;
They are capable of all the other gifts;	They are relational (1 Thes 2:7,11,12)
They are temporary (selfless) (they place others in positions and move on)	

- But not sent from men, nor from any man made agency.
Paul did not need man to send him when he knew Jesus sent him.
We need to know Jesus sends us and that will settle doubts and accusations in our mind.
This doesn't mean attacks will not come. It means the attack is countered effectively in knowing who sent us.
- Paul was sent from the risen Christ and God the Father. Paul is establishing his authority. His authority is in Christ not in his own merit.

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

- Grace (unmerited favor) GK "charis"
- Grace is from God and Peace always follows after receiving grace.
- You will never have peace without grace first.
- Paul in his introduction is speaking to them what he will emphasis throughout this epistle. GRACE!

Gal 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Picture of Grace

- "who gave Himself for our sins" - **THE GREAT EXCHANGE**
 - First, the need is recognized. Sin has caused a debt that must be paid
 - Jesus "Gave Himself" He didn't give His arm or His leg. But His all. This is speaking of all He is, His life, His glory, His ability. His authority, His power. Jesus exchanged it all for our sins.
 - What more could be added to Jesus Himself for our salvation? NOTHING.
- "He rescued us" - **THE GREAT RESCUE**
 - Many persons think they came to Christ. "I Found Jesus." Or "I was raised a Christian" They may actually develop the idea that they have done God and Christianity a favor by giving their time and effort to the "cause".
 - The truth is "**We Were Rescued**"
 - We need to hold on to this concept that we were rescued. Unable to help ourselves. Destined for destruction. If you have any other view you need to repent of your pride and acknowledge your Savior.
- "from this present evil age" - **THE GREAT ENEMY**
 - Kakos - evil in of itself
 - Ponerous - (pernicious) (this is the Greek word used here in this verse)
This is an evil that is not satisfied by itself - it needs someone to take with it to be satisfied. (i.e.: consenting adults, partners in crime)
 - "age" KJV = world meaning not necessarily the earth but the order of things
 - James 4:4 "*know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*"
- "according to the will of God" - **THE GREAT GOD**
 - Here we see the LOVE of the Father. This wasn't just some good idea Jesus had. This had divine thought. This was the plan from the beginning.
 - Matthew 25:34 "*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*"
 - God is not a detached God that is not involved in the affairs of man. This entire rescue is His idea, His plan, His will.

Gal 1:5 to whom {be} the glory forevermore. Amen.

- "glory forevermore" - **THE GREAT RESULT**
 - It is the desire for every true believer to Glorify God with their life. It is the greatest glory given to set their life as a pointer to the one who rescued them. The true believer surrenders their own glory to give all glory to their savior.
 - Forevermore has a beginning. We often hear this word and think of the end, that there is none. But it has a beginning. It may be today for you.
- Notice our part - we are just recipients. God does it all.
- Amen - So Be It

Gal 1:6 **2) A Contrary Gospel** vs 6-9

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, (messiah) for a different gospel;

Gal 1:7 which is {really} not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (messiah)

- This is the only epistle Paul writes that does not have a thanksgiving comment in the beginning
 - 1st Epistle - It could be something he learned to do later
 - Or it could be the urgency of the subject matter
- Paul is amazed. (KJV = marvel) If it were just a turning Paul might be concerned or alarmed but here he says he is amazed.
- He is amazed at HOW QUICKLY they are turning.
 - Seems that Paul understands that the exciting novelty of Christianity wears off and different things occur that can cause discouragement and questions in our walk but this was different. This was so soon. And for the wrong reason.
- Paul is amazed at how quickly they are DESERTING HIM. Turning away from the principal of grace is turning away from the person Jesus.
Originally taught $G + 0 = S$ Paul is saying $(G + A) = (G - JC) = 0$
(G is grace; JC is Jesus; S is salvation; A is anything; 0 is zero)
- 3 Things about a Different Gospel
 - It's Different
 - a. verse 6 the word "different" is "*heteros*" = another of a different kind
 - b. verse 7 the word "another" is "*allos*" = another of the same sort
 - c. The meaning is clear - Paul is saying that this other message is not just another option or an improvement on the gospel but it is a message that is something altogether different.
 - It's Disturbing (to interfere with or to upset the tranquility or condition)
this produces fear/uncertainty constantly without relief
 - It's Distorting (to twist out of true meaning or proportion)
This produces a false hope/false conversion and the result is a sense of salvation when there is none

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

- The quality of the gospel is not in the fact that Paul preaches it. The quality of the gospel is who it points to. The true gospel points to Jesus.
- Paul does not tolerate a false gospel at all.
 - It matters not who preaches it: others (implied), himself, or angels
 - He declares they (the person, not just the message) should be accursed.
 - ACCURSED (*anathema*) - a person or thing doomed to destruction without hope of being redeemed.

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

- To make sure his point is made, Paul strengthens as much as possible the intent.
- He says it again: One who preaches a contrary gospel than the one pictured in verses 4-5 shall be accursed.
- 1 Corinthians 16:22 KJV "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."
 - Anathema (Greek) = a person or thing doomed to destruction without hope of being redeemed.
 - Maranatha (Aramaic) = O Lord Come

Gal 1:10 **3) True Gospel from a Divine Source** vs 10-12

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

- Paul is telling the Galatians that he is relaying the true gospel is because he is not concerned about trying to please men.
 - Not trying to please a board, or a committee or keep a paycheck
 - He is trying to preach to please God. What a focus! Usually we think that preaching is to get across an idea to an audience. Paul says his first concern is to please God.
 - Our ministries should be focused on being faithful rather than being popular.
- It is interesting that trying to please men prohibits Paul from being a bond-servant of Christ.

Gal 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

Gal 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but {I received it} through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Paul is telling the Galatians that he is relaying the true gospel because he received it from Jesus Himself and not from man.
- It was not taught but it was through a revelation.

Gal 1:13 **4) Paul's Testimony as Proof** vs 13-24

For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

Gal 1:14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

- Paul's story was familiar to the early church. If you hadn't heard it before all you need it to be around Paul a little while; he was either going to tell you about Jesus or his testimony.
- He used to persecute the church. Found in Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-2
- Paul was excelling in Judaism. He wasn't looking for a new gospel. He didn't need one. He was fast tracking to be great in Judaism. (Philippians 3:4-7)
- Paul was doing the work. He persecuted, He was advancing, He was zealous. What did it get him, he became a murderer.

Gal 1:15 But when God, who had set me apart {even} from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased

Gal 1:16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

- What pleases God is calling someone by grace. They do not merit the favor, they deserve His wrath. But He calls them by His GRACE. This is what pleases the Lord God.
- In Paul's case he didn't merit any favor for he was called before he was born.
- But God did the work. God set him apart, God called him, God revealed His Son to him What did that get him, he became saved, and an apostle bringing salvation to all the nations.
- Verse 12 Jesus was revealed to Paul but here Paul says even greater is a revealing of Jesus in Paul

I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

Gal 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

Gal 1:18 Then three years later

- Paul was called but he did not seek out teachers. He went to Arabia and back to Damascus. It was three years before he sought out anybody that would influence him.
- Arabia in Paul's day extended even to Damascus. It very well could have been that Paul simply retreated to a more private country setting then returned to the city.

I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

Gal 1:19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gal 1:20 (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.)

- Paul sought out Peter and James. He was not required to submit to them and be examined by them. Paul instigated the meetings.

Gal 1:21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

Gal 1:22 I was {still} unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ;

Gal 1:23 but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."

Gal 1:24 And they were glorifying God because of me.

- Paul goes to Syria and Cilicia. The Christians there didn't know Paul by sight but heard of him.
- He who once persecuted now preaches
- This sounds like everything happened pretty quickly, but this was 11 - 14 years.

- The point of this testimony is to prove that Paul's gospel was not taught to him by man but by Jesus himself. He is trying to show the Galatians that this proves this is the true gospel.
- What it teaches us is that many times what we believe may not be the true gospel. To know the true gospel we simply need to see what God has revealed to us in the Word of God. Read it. Believe it. Let what God says be the truth for you.

**"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**