

Paul, an apostle—not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me:

To the churches of Galatia.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

No Other Gospel

I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>8</sup> not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>9</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! <sup>10</sup> As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!

<sup>11</sup> For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

# SET FREE



The Origin of Paul's Gospel

<sup>12</sup> For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. <sup>13</sup> For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism; I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. <sup>15</sup> I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. <sup>16</sup> But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>17</sup> to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. <sup>18</sup> I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

<sup>19</sup> Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>20</sup> But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. <sup>21</sup> I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

<sup>22</sup> Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>23</sup> I remained personally unknown to the Jewish churches that are in Christ. <sup>24</sup> They simply kept hearing, "He who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>25</sup> And they glorified God because of me.



FREEDOM THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM GOD | PASTOR GLEN BARNES | APRIL 19TH, 2026

Post Incarceration Syndrome: *"Often, people are set free, but they do not know how to live free."*

*"So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law."*

~ GALATIANS 5:1 (NLT)

Galatians is a Book of Contrasts:

## THE TRUE GOSPEL

Freedom  
Faith  
Grace  
Child of God  
Fruits of the Spirit

Vs.

## THE FALSE GOSPEL

Bondage  
Good Works  
Law  
Slave  
Desires of the Flesh

How Paul Came to Believe the True Gospel of Grace

*"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup> I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.*

*<sup>14</sup> I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup> But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. <sup>17</sup> I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.*

*<sup>18</sup> Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup> I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.*

*<sup>21</sup> Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup> I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup> They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup> And they praised God because of me."*

~ GALATIANS 1:11-24 (NIV)

Paul's Objective Evidence:

The True Gospel of Grace Came from \_\_\_\_\_.

• It was revealed to Him by the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 9, 1 Corinthians 15:8)

• He was strengthened through three years in the \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Galatians 1:17-18*)

• Paul's Message \_\_\_\_\_ of the other Apostles. (*Galatians 2:2-3*)

“ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.” ~ GALATIANS 1:20 (NLT)

### Paul's Subjective Evidence

The True Gospel of Grace dramatically \_\_\_\_\_ .

- I was a religious zealot. (*Galatians 1:14*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christians. (*Galatians 1:13*)
- Jesus broke through and \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Galatians 1:23-24*)

“ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

~ GALATIANS 2:20 (NIV)

### The Conclusion:

Paul's life was set free by the Grace of Jesus ... \_\_\_\_\_ ?

### DISCUSSION Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |    

- 1 - The sermon said, "People are set free, but don't always know how to live free." Where do you see that tension in your own life or in others?
- 2 - Paul contrasts the true Gospel with a false gospel. What are some modern ways people add "Jesus + something else" to salvation?
- 3 - Why do you think Paul was so intense about defending the Gospel of grace? What was at stake?
- 4 - How does Paul's personal transformation strengthen the credibility of his message? What stands out most to you about his story?
- 5 - What role do both objective truth (Scripture) and subjective experience (life change) play in your own faith?
- 6 - The question was asked: "Have you truly encountered Jesus, or are you just caught up in the noise?" How would you honestly answer that—and why?

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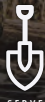
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SERVE



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BEGINS TODAY @ 9:30AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

SPRING

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BUSINESS MEETING

SUNDAY | MAY 3RD | 5:00PM

SUNDAY EVENING IN THE CHAPEL