

GALATIANS 1:1-5 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GO BACK TO GRACE - ([SERMON MP3](#))

In order to get the feel of the book, read Galatians 1:1-9 and identify three key terms from (v. 1-5). Write the term and its associated definition in the blanks below. Be prepared to share with your study group.



- Term: _____ Definition: _____
- Term: _____ Definition: _____
- Term: _____ Definition: _____

The devil disturbs the church as much by error as by evil. When he cannot entice Christian people into sin, he deceives them with false doctrine.



- How can you test the truth of what you hear from public figures, your pastor, and other Christian teachers?
- What insights can you gain from the Bereans in Acts 17:10-11?

As Paul begins this letter, what does his mood seem to be _____?



- What reasons do these verses give for his frame of mind?
- Read (Rom. 1:8-10; 1Cor. 1:4-7; Eph. 1:15-17; Phil. 1:3-8; Col. 1:3-6) and compare them with the greeting given in Galatians. What do all these have in common that the beginning of Galatians is lacking?
- How do you think Paul would have wanted the Galatian Christians to respond to this omission?
- How does this change the way we read the letter to the Galatians?

Galatians 1:1-5 contain the core of Paul's "gospel," or announcement. If someone asked you what the gospel is, what would you say? Take a moment and write down your explanation of the gospel in the box below. Use (v. 1-5) to help shape and sharpen it.



Elements of the gospel in (v. 1-5)	Your explanation of the gospel using (v. 1-5) to shape and sharpen it
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- Who will you ask God to give you an opportunity to share the gospel with this week _____? Take a moment to pray right now.

- Why does this gospel bring people “grace and peace from God” (v. 3), do you think?
- Who gets the glory and praise for the work of the true gospel? Why is this important? Why is this fair?
- In (v. 5) we see the motivation for everything Paul does (see also 1Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36; 16:27). How is this a challenge to us?

At the beginning (1:3), middle (2:21), and end (6:18) of Galatians, Paul brings us back to _____. The message of grace still stands; the fountain of grace still flows; the centerpiece of grace remains.



- For those who have strayed from God and his gospel, the way to go forward is to go back to grace. How have you struggled with the gospel of grace in your Christian experience?
- After explaining what God has done for sinners through the death of Christ, Paul closes his greeting section in (v. 5) with the word “Amen.” It is as though he invites the reader to voice their agreement with this gospel of grace. “Amen” is the voice of faith saying “let it be so.” When the old-fashioned Cantonese-speaking Christian says at the end of a prayer (shing sam shoh uen) “with all my heart this is what I wish,” they approach the meaning of “amen.”¹ If you are in need of grace let your heart “amen” the declaration of the gospel in this passage.

DIGGING DEEPER (FOR EXTRA PERSONAL STUDY)

How does Paul describe himself in (v. 1) _____? Some religions believe in apostolic succession, and hence apostolic authority is supremely expressed in the pontiff of the church. Other religions claim that only the true church has 12 apostles today bearing witness of Jesus and teaching of him around the world.

- How would you describe biblical apostles?
- Is there a scriptural basis for apostles today? Why or why not? Consider the qualifications for apostleship in (Acts 1:21-22). Consider the response of the church after James is put to death (Acts 12:2). Consider the functional purpose of the apostles (Eph. 2:20).

We live in an age of corruption, decay, death, war, murder, oppression, slavery, etc. (v. 4) says that Christ gave himself for us to “deliver us from this present evil age.”

- If He died to deliver us, why does He warn us not to revert back. If we are rescued from sin why are we not sinless. If we are perfect in Christ why are we not yet perfected?
- In what way are we delivered from this present evil age? What does that phrase in (v. 4) mean?

PRAYER REQUESTS
