

Paul begins this letter by establishing his authority and credibility. He was standing against those teachers who were perverting the gospel. The stakes were high...(no less than the eternal souls of these Galatians)...and he wanted assure the recipients of his letter that what he is telling them is the truth.

## The terrible effects of false teaching

- 2Ti 2:17-18 NIV Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, **and they destroy the faith of some.**
- Tit 1:10-11 NIV For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because **they are disrupting whole households** by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
- Heb 13:7-9 NIV Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9 **Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.** It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so.
- Rom 16:17-18 NIV I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery **they deceive the minds of naive people.**

Gal 1:1-2 NIV Paul, an apostle--sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- 2 and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia:

## He is an apostle, sent by Jesus Christ

The Greek meaning of the word "apostle" in the Strong's concordance = a delegate; specifically an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ (one who is SENT)

- Not sent by a man
- Sent by Jesus AND sent by God the Father
- When Paul said he was sent by Jesus it validates the resurrection
  - Remember he was sent by Jesus AFTER Jesus had died and was raised from the dead

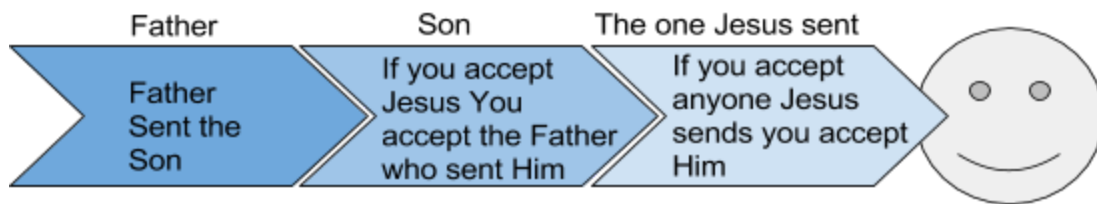
### Jesus' words to Paul shortly after Paul's conversion

- Act 26:16-18 NIV 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the **Gentiles. I am sending you to them** 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

### The Importance of Being Sent

#### It establishes a “chain of command” so to speak

- Joh 13:20 NIV Very truly I tell you, **whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me**; and whoever accepts me accepts **the one who sent me.**"



#### It establishes the authority of the one being sent

- Luk 7:8 NIV For I myself am **a man under authority, with soldiers under me.** I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

#### Paul often sent people and gave them a word of recommendation

- 2Co 8:18 NIV And **we are sending along with him the brother** who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.
- 2Co 8:22 NIV In addition, **we are sending with them our brother** who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you.

#### There was a “sending” that was essentially a releasing people into ministry

- Act 11:22 NIV News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and **they sent Barnabas to Antioch.**
- Act 13:2-3 NIV While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and **sent them off.**

#### Antioch was their “sending” church - and it was their place of relationship and accountability

- Act 14:26-27 NIV From Attalia **they sailed back to Antioch**, where they had been **committed**

to the grace of God for the work they had now **completed**. 27 On arriving there, they **gathered** the church together and **reported** all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.. 28 And **they stayed there a long time** with the disciples.

## There is a difference between those who WENT and those who were SENT

### **Those who caused trouble in Antioch were “people who CAME down to Antioch”**

- Act 15:1-4 NIV **Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch** and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

### **Here is how James describes them ...**

- “[they] WENT out from us WITHOUT OUR AUTHORIZATION” ... in this same section of scripture they gave recommendation to two others they WERE SENDING to travel with PAUL - Again we see a big distinction between those who WENT and those who were SENT
- Acts 15:23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. **24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization** and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. 25 So we all agreed to **choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul-- 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.**

### **Being sent was important in the early church and it is still important today**

- Who sent the teachers?...Under whose authority do they minister?
- Who raised them up?...Who laid hands on them?
- Who else do they relate to in the body of Christ? ... Who recommends them?
- This is a generalization and not true in every case - but teachers on a hobby horse tend to lean toward legalism or imbalance

## The call to live in the grace of Christ

Gal 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Grace and Peace

**Grace and Peace is a frequent greeting of Paul and used as well by Peter and John in their letters** [Rom 1:7, 1Co 1:3, 2Co 1:2, Gal 1:3, Eph 1:2, Php 1:2, Col 1:2, 1Th 1:1, 2Th 1:2, 1Ti 1:2, 2Ti 1:2, Tit 1:4, Phm 1:3, 1Pe 1:2, 2Pe 1:2, 2Jn 1:3, Rev 1:4]

"These two terms, grace and peace, constitute Christianity." (Martin Luther)

## He Gave Himself

### **He gave himself...no one forced him, no one took His life**

- 1Pe 1:18-20 NIV For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.
- Joh 10:17-18 NIV The reason my Father loves me is that **I lay down my life**--only to take it up again. 18 **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

## For Our Sins

- Rom 5:6-8 NIV You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.** 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- 1Pe 3:18 NIV For Christ also **suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous**, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.
- 2Co 5:21 NIV God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

## Giving Himself for our sins is the is the only way Grace and Peace can be ours

Eph 2:6-9 NIV And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the **incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness** to us in Christ Jesus. 8 **For it is by grace you have been saved**, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Tit 3:3-7 NIV At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 **But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared**, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Rom 4:25-5:1 NIV He was delivered over to death **for our sins** and was raised to life for our justification. 5:1 **Therefore**, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Num 6:24-26 NIV ""The LORD bless you and keep you; (25) the LORD make his face shine on you and be **gracious** to you; (26) the LORD turn his face toward you and give you **peace**.""

### To rescue us from the present evil age

**What does it mean to be rescued?** The Greek word is the same word used when it says if your eye offends you **pluck it out**. Here are some other places the word is used. The idea behind the word **deliver** is not deliverance from the **presence** of something, but deliverance from the **power** of something.

- Act 7:10 NIV and **rescued** him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.
- Act 7:34 NIV I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to **set them free**. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'
- Act 12:11 NIV Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and **rescued** me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."
- Act 23:27 NIV This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and **rescued** him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen.

### He delivered us from this present evil age - what is it?

EVIL - From a derivative of G4192; **hurtful**, that is, evil (properly in effect or influence, and thus differing from G2556, which refers rather to essential character, as well as from G4550, which indicates degeneracy from original virtue)

#### **The present evil age - dominion of darkness**

- 2Co 4:4 NIV The **god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- Col 1:13 NIV For he has **rescued us from the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

#### **The present evil age - love of the world/sin**

- 2Ti 4:10 NIV for Demas, because **he loved this world, has deserted me** and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.
- Romans 12:2, "**Do not be conformed to this age** but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."
- Tit 2:11-12 NIV For **the grace of God has appeared** that offers salvation to all people. **12 It teaches us** to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in **this present age**,

## **This present evil age - the Jewish traditions**

Col 2:8 NIV See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental **spiritual forces of this world** rather than on Christ.

Col 2:20-23 NIV Since you died with Christ to the **elemental spiritual forces of this world**, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do **you submit to its rules**: (21) "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? (22) These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. (23) Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

- [Adam Clarke Commentary] According to the doctrine of the Jewish teachers; or, according to the Mosaic institutions, as explained and glossed by the scribes, Pharisees, and rabbins in general. We have often seen that העולם הזה haolam hazzeh, this world, of which του κοσμου τουτου is a literal translation, is frequently used to express the Jewish system of rites, ceremonies, and institutions in general; what the apostle calls the tradition of men, namely, what men, unauthorized by God, have taught as doctrines received from him. Our Lord frequently refers to and condemns these traditions.
- This idea of the present evil age seems to line up with further teaching in Galatians within the context of the book..i.e. Jesus died on the cross to rescue them from the traditions and rituals of Judaism in order to walk in the grace of Jesus Christ...now they are wanting to come back under the slavery to those things and fall from the grace of God.
  - Gal 4:1-5 NIV What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. (2) The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. (3) So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery **under the elemental spiritual forces of the world**. (4) But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.
  - Gal 4:9 NIV But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those **weak and miserable forces**? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

## This is the will of God

### **That we experience His grace and peace**

- Heb 4:16 NIV **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### **That Jesus gave himself for our sins**

- Act 2:23 NIV **This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan** and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

### **That we should be rescued from the present evil world and live in the grace of Christ**

Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--

- Our desertion is not from a religion...it is from a person...**"You are so quickly deserting the ONE who called you..."**
- It was a desertion from living in grace to **another gospel** - which is no gospel at all
- There are two Greek words for "**different**." [or "another" KJV]. One means another of the same kind and the other means another of a different kind...the second one is the word used here. Greek = heteros...we get the word "heretic" from this. The "gospel" they were buying into was totally different from the gospel of grace. This "new gospel" was no gospel at all.

Gal 1:7-9 NIV which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! (9) As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

### There is no other gospel

**Throwing you into confusion** (disturbing/troubling?) The root of the word translated "disturbing" (v. 7) is one that describes the opposite of what the word translated "peace" (v. 3) means. These false teachers were distorting the good news of Christ...and moving the Galatians from their calling to peace into a state of confusion. **Confusion = to roil like water**

- Gal 5:7-10 NIV You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? (8) That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. (9) "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." (10) I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. **The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty.**
- Act 15:24-27 NIV We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, **troubling** your minds by what they said. 25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul-- 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

### **Trying to pervert the gospel of Christ [to turn across - transmute]**

They were trying to turn the gospel into something it was not.



- Act 2:20 The sun will be **turned** to darkness (pervert is translated turned in this scripture)
- Jas 4:9 ... let your laughter be **turned** into mourning (pervert is translated turned in this scripture)

### **A different Jesus, a different spirit, a different gospel**

- 2Co 11:1-5 NIV I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! (2) I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. (3) But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (4) For if someone comes to you and preaches **a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.** (5) I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

### What is the gospel Paul preached?

#### **It central message is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ**

- 1Co 15:1-4 NIV Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of **the gospel I preached** to you, which **you received** and on which **you have taken your stand.** 2 By this gospel **you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.** 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, 4 that **he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

#### **It includes the day of judgement**

- Rom 2:13-16 NIV **For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.** 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) 16 **This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares**

#### **It includes the message of life and immortality**

- 2Ti 1:9-10 NIV He has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, **who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**

#### **It states that justification is not by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus**



- Gal 2:14-16 NIV When I saw that they were not acting in line with **the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? 15 "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. **So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law**, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

#### **That Gentiles are heirs together with Israel through the gospel**

- Eph 3:6 NIV This mystery is that **through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel**, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

#### **The gospel is that we are reconciled with God...holy in His sight...free from accusation...if we continue**

- Col 1:21-23 NIV **Once you were alienated** from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But **now he has reconciled you** by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--** 23 **if you continue in your faith**, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. **This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven**, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

#### **It is the power of God unto salvation by faith**

- Rom 1:15-17 NIV That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because **it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes**: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel **the righteousness of God is revealed--**a righteousness that is **by faith** from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

#### **God's curse on those who preach a gospel different than what Paul preached, or who preach a message different than what they have accepted**

- 1Th 2:13 NIV And we also thank God continually because, **when you received** the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

#### **False teachers were to be cursed**

- Though **we**, an **angel** from heaven or **any man** preach a gospel other than what we have preached or you have accepted...**let him be under God's curse** = a (religious) *ban* or (concretely) *excommunicated* (thing or person)
- 1Ti 1:3 ESV As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may **charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine**,

#### **This word was used elsewhere**

- 1Co 16:22 NIV If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!

## Pauls validation & Defense

It seems the Judaizers were claiming that Paul actually still preaches circumcision, but had removed the requirement of circumcision, or the other traditions in order to please the Gentiles or to gain more converts...in other words that he compromised truth to win converts.

### 1) You cannot be the servant of man and the servant of Christ

Gal 1:10-24 ESV For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- Gal 5:11 NIV Brothers and sisters, **if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted?** In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.
  - Gal 6:12 NIV Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. **The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.**
  - Gal 6:14 NIV **May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,** through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- Gal 6:17 NIV From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for **I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.**

### 2) The gospel he preaches was revealed to him by Jesus Christ

(11) For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. (12) For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

- 1Co 11:23 NIV For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,
- 1Co 15:6-8 NIV After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, (8) and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

### 3) His zeal for Judaism before conversion and the radical change brought about by Jesus

(13) For you have heard of my **former** life in Judaism, how I **persecuted** the church of God **violently** and tried to **destroy** it. (14) And I was **advancing** in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so **extremely zealous** was I for the traditions of my fathers... .. (20) (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) (21) Then I went into the regions of Syria and

Cilicia. (22) And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. (23) They only were hearing it said, "**He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.**" (24) And they glorified God because of me.

- He was a true Jew - following in the traditions of his fathers
- Acts 22:3 "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day."
- Php 3:5-6 NIV circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.
- The power of a testimony

#### **4) He did not go to the apostles to get taught - he received from Jesus**

(15) But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, (16) was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; (17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. (18) Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. (19) But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.