

# BOOK OF GALATIANS

## *“Peace with a Purpose”*

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 1:1-5

- ) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
- ) Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 7.** We are in an expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #2. I have titled today’s message *“Peace with a Purpose.”*
- ) Today I want to look at verses 3 through 5 of chapter one which are the final part of Paul’s greeting in this letter to the churches in Galatia. I will be breaking his greeting down into three points that culminate in a divine purpose.
- ) **SLIDE 8.** The first point is found in verse 3 and that would be the **PROMISE** of **PEACE**. Paul begins this letter rather amicably. *“Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,”* he writes. He wants the Galatians to know the promise of grace and peace. Let’s stop there.
- ) What is grace? The simplest definition of “grace” is unmerited favor. But today, I don’t want to focus on grace. I will speak more on grace as we get more into this book. For this morning, let’s talk about peace.
- ) **SLIDE 9.** What is peace? Webster defines the word *“peace”* as *“a state of tranquility or quiet.”* What idea comes to mind when you think of peace? Often, we think of peace as two neighbors getting along in friendship or two countries getting along without war. But that is not the peace Paul want these people to have. So, what is it?
- ) When the prophet Isaiah speaks of the Messiah in ISAIAH 9:6-7, he says the Messiah will be the Prince of Peace.

- ) What is the peace that ISAIAH is referring to? Is it worldly peace? No, it is not. Is it two countries getting along without war? No. Is it two neighbors living amicably beside one another? No again. That kind of peace comes and goes.
- ) **SLIDE 10.** Isaiah is speaking of spiritual peace. Spiritual peace is much different than worldly peace. It's the kind of peace Jesus talks about with His disciples in JOHN 14:27 when He tells them this: "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*"
- ) And again, in JOHN 16:33, Jesus says this: "*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world.*"
- ) Jesus wants us to know that there are things in this world that will cause us to be fearful, and there will be things in this world that will cause us tribulation. We all know that. We have all experienced those things.
- ) But Paul wants the Galatians to know right off the bat in this letter that a promise of peace has been made. And they need to take hold of that promise. But this promise is based on what? Let's go to our second point this morning.
- ) **SLIDE 11.** Paul then adds this in verse 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.*" The second point is the **EMANCIPATION** from **EVIL**. The promise of peace is based on our emancipation from evil.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** Rescue vs emancipation. What is emancipation? "*to free from restraint, control, or the power of another; to free from bondage.*" What have believers been emancipated from? Well, what is every human being in bondage to? Our what? Our sins.

- ) ROMANS 6:6 plainly tells us that every human being is a slave to sin. Sin (evil) is our master. Who's your daddy? SIN!
- ) **SLIDE 13.** ROMANS 6:16-18. *“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”*
- ) The biggest lie the enemy has ever brought upon the human race is to make every human being believe that some kind of goodness dwells within every human and that goodness is pleasing in the sight of God, and eternal rewards await those who demonstrate such goodness. Liar, liar, pants on fire!
- ) I know I've said it a zillion times in here. The absolute worst thing that can happen to a human being is dying and going to hell. And as long as I am a slave to sin because sin is my master, that is exactly what will happen. The wages of sin is what? Death (ROMANS 6:23).
- ) But in Paul's greeting he is saying that the people at these churches in Galatia have peace and have been emancipated (rescued) from this present evil age. PHIL 4:7 tells us that there is a peace that surpasses all understanding. This is the same peace Jesus talked about in JOHN 14 and 16.
- ) Sounds great. How do I get that peace? Folks, the #1 step for any human being to have this peace is to understand what we are and who we are. We are all dirty filthy rotten sinners whose master is evil regardless of how “good” we may think we are.
- ) Once we can sincerely admit that, then we go to the only One who can rescue us from this bondage. And His name is? Jesus Christ. Verse 4. *“Who gave Himself for our sins.”*

- ) Jesus, on the cross, bore the punishment we deserve. Once we commit and trust our lives to Jesus Christ, He becomes our master and we become slaves to Him and His righteousness. We are no longer in bondage to evil.
- ) And then and only then will we have peace in knowing that the worst thing that could ever happen to a human being (dying and going to hell) will never happen to the one who commits his/her life to Jesus Christ and makes Him Lord of their life.
- ) So, we have a promise of peace, and that promise is based on our emancipation from evil by the work of Jesus Christ and our faith in Him. Our final point. Verse 5.
- ) **SLIDE 14**. Paul concludes his greeting with this in verse 5: “*to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.*” The third point is the **PRAISE** for His **PROVISION**. The promise of peace is based on our emancipation from evil, and our emancipation from evil deserves our praise for His provision.
- ) Paul spread the gospel in this area of Galatia while he was still ministering to the Jews at their synagogues. Because of that, most of the people in the churches at Galatia were Jews. And the main problem the Galatians had (as do all people) is that Judaism at that time was a works-based religion. My merit and works earn my salvation.
- ) In this short little verse, verse 5 of GALATIANS chapter one, Paul need to set them straight. In so many words, Paul is telling them that they contributed NOTHING to their salvation. It was all by the plan of the Father through the work of Jesus Christ. And they need to give praise for the provision of salvation that was given to them.
- ) It is so easy for us human beings to take the credit for good things that happen in our lives. We advance at our place of work because we say WE work hard and have the right skills.

- ) We have a talent such as music or art or crafts and sit back and admire the creations WE make. We look at our cherished possessions like our houses or cars or exotic vacations and compliment ourselves on what WE have achieved in our lives. We may even pat ourselves on our backs for our salvation and the wise decision WE made for Jesus once upon a time.
- ) In my working days, I liked advancing up the ladder of success. I appreciate my house and my car and my ability to play music and, I appreciate most of all, my salvation. But who gets the praise for all those things? Self? Me? Did I really do these things?
- ) I want us all to leave here today putting our accomplishments and possessions in the right perspective. And we need to put the peace that we have, because of the freedom from evil that we have, as a result of the salvation in Christ that we have, and direct our praise for all of that to the One and only One who is worthy of our praise.
- ) BGCC, we have peace because there was a purpose for us to have that peace. And that purpose is to give Him the praise and glory! Our salvation is all according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen!
- ) The truth isn't always easy, but it does matter. And the truth will set you free!

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