

The Church's Primary Mission Galatians 1:1-5

Introduction:

1. Have you ever heard somebody say, "I don't know why God doesn't just zap him or her?"
2. I am thankful to be able to tell you today that God is not zapping sinners, nor is He judging nations, nor is He blasting people groups.
3. What is God up to today? What exactly is He doing? What is His primary business today? Here it is. Are you ready? God is offering **grace** to sinners. If God was in the business of zapping sinners today, how many of you would have already been zapped?
4. God is in the business of **saving** (rescuing) sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15
 - He isn't throwing people into the water to drown; He is throwing out a life rope from the life boat to those who **are** drowning in their sin.
5. God reached out, and in sheer grace saved a blaspheming, violent, abusive man who beat, arrested, jailed, and murdered believers in Jesus Christ. This man was Saul of Tarsus, known to us as the apostle Paul. He wrote this book of Galatians.
 - God completely and radically changed his life. Paul said that he obtained mercy that he might be a pattern to those who would believe on Christ after him. 1 Timothy 1:16
6. Paul wrote this letter to a group of churches he started in the region of Galatia (vs. 2). They had lost their moorings and drifted off course from the message they should have been holding to and proclaiming to others. Galatians 1:6-9
 - This can happen so easily to any church. It is not always something evil or sinful that gets us off course. We can get involved in "good" things, but we leave the best thing undone.
7. Church, we must get out the message of God's grace to this world. The reason we serve, do outreach events, give of our resources, and have a local church is to get out the message of God's grace. Why is this so crucial?

First, because God is offering peace with sinners. vs. 3

1. Paul greets the churches of Galatia with two absolutely beautiful words—*"grace"* and *"peace."* Notice they come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Because of God's grace, peace is now possible between a holy God and sinful mankind.
3. What is the opposite of grace and peace? The opposite of grace would be judgment. The opposite of peace would be war.
4. One day Christ **will** return to this earth, and when He does, He will **judge** and **make war** with sinners. Revelation 19:11
 - Mankind declared war on God (the Gentile nations and Israel) through rejecting Jesus Christ, God's Son. God will one day make a counter-declaration. We are living in between man's declaration of war on God and God's counter-declaration of war on man.

5. We are living in the dispensation of the grace of God, when God is offering **peace** to His enemies everywhere. Without His grace there could be no peace. Titus 2:11
6. Grace **from** God and peace **with** God are now available to all mankind. Do you have peace with God? You can! You can today!
7. We must get God's message of grace out. Why is this? Because based on the grace, God is extending an offer of peace to all of humanity. What a shame for someone to live and die, never knowing about this offer of peace from God.

Second, because Christ gave Himself for us. vs. 4

1. Sin separates mankind from a holy God. God cannot condone sin. If He did, He would not be a holy God. God must judge sin for which the penalty is death. Romans 6:23
2. There is only one reason why God can offer peace with sinners today. Verse 4 declares...
 - Christ, the sinless One, gave Himself voluntarily as the perfect sacrifice for our sin (Romans 5:6, 8). Then He was raised from the dead (vs. 1).
 - God is offering peace to sinners because He can justly do it based on the sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf. God's part in reconciliation has already been accomplished through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:19
3. It is no longer the **sin** question, but the **Son** question. If people remain unreconciled to God, it is because of their rejection of Christ and His sacrifice for them.
4. On the other hand, when sinners choose to believe on Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Savior, they are immediately delivered from this evil world.
5. After this time of grace is over, God's wrath and judgment will come on this satanic world system.
 - But if you have placed your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you have been delivered from the wrath to come on this world.
 - Not only this, God makes you a member of His heavenly kingdom. Colossians 1:13
 - All because of Christ. Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20
6. Oh, how the world needs this message that Christ has made a way of reconciliation!

In Conclusion:

1. So the question then is **how** do we get this message of grace out to the world? What is the most expedient way to do this?
2. Look at verse 2, "...unto the churches..." Paul was given the commission from Christ to take the gospel of grace to the Gentile nations and open their eyes. Paul then gave his life to planting local churches.
 - **Example:** In Galatia, he planted churches, wrote letters to churches, trained leaders to lead churches, etc.
3. When we talk about missions, it is crucial that we understand the mission. Acts 26:18

- Notice how personal this is. Their eyes are opened and you teach them their completeness in Christ so that they can minister in their area for Christ.
4. Unfortunately, much of what goes on under the banner of “missions” may be good, but it is not resulting in nationals being trained and churches being planted. Paul’s methodology—win souls, train nationals, establish leadership in local churches, move on.
 5. You then have a lighthouse in that area for Christ for generations to come.