

“Delivered”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to a group of churches in the southern region of Galatia. Shortly after he planted the churches in that region, false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, their righteousness would be based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Paul wrote in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

It has been said that the greeting of this letter is theologically loaded. Paul wanted to solidify his argument against the false teachers at the outset. Several observations should be noted. First, if you have read Paul’s other letters in the NT, you’ll find this letter, alone, was written without the usual prayer of thanksgiving Paul always included in his greeting. He would always say something like, “I thank God for you.” Yet, here Paul was somewhat disturbed the Galatians were turning away from the message he preached to them. Secondly, Paul didn’t write a message that he alone affirmed. Rather, he wrote with “*all the brothers who are with me.*” He wanted the churches of Galatia to see his message, not the false teachers, was the orthodox message of the Gospel. Finally, if you’re not careful, you will miss the whole point of Paul’s letter found in verse 4. Paul is claiming that all who believe the Gospel have been delivered from bondage to sin and this present evil age and set free to worship Jesus and find their righteousness in Him alone.

James Hamilton says the primary message in the letter to the Galatians is this; “[God is glorified] in the salvation through judgment he accomplished in the Gospel.”¹ This is the hope of the Gospel message we proclaim. Jesus lived, died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) in order to accomplish salvation for everyone who believes. As a result, we are delivered from the present age of sinfulness in order to live in the freedom of grace and Christ’s righteousness.

So how does this book apply to you? If you have responded to the Gospel message in faith, then you have been delivered from the bondage of sin. Delivered from the wrath of God. Delivered from trying to earn your salvation. Delivered from a hopeless, Christless eternity. Delivered to glorify God in everything. You have been delivered!

Message Outline

You were delivered...

1. By God.
2. Through Jesus.
3. In Grace.
4. For Peace.
5. From Sin.
6. To Glory.

Therefore, you are free to...

1. Worship God alone.
2. Serve the King.
3. Trust His Finished work.
4. Rejoice always.
5. Live in Holiness.
6. Magnify Jesus in everything.

¹ James Hamilton, *God’s Glory in Salvation Through Judgment*, 467.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 1:1-5:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
 - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
 - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
 - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
 - Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
 - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
 - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
 - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
 - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
 - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
 - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
 - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
 - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
 - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
 - Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.