Galatians - The True Gospel and Freedom in Christ
Five Gospel-Centered Themes – Galatians 1:1-5

Galatians 1:1-5 (ESV) 1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Salutation: Galatians1:1-5

Letters in the first century usually began with a salutation that included 3 parts:
- the name of the sender
- the name of the recipient
- a greeting

The Salutation in Galatians is significant because of what is not there, as well as what is added. What is lacking is a thanksgiving. What is added is a word about the origin of his apostleship and a mini-theology of the cross.

This lack of thanksgiving and inclusion of these 2 parts underscore the central themes of the letter.
- The Messenger was under attack (Paul)
- The Message was under attack (salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone)

Why Did Paul write Galatians? To correct a gigantic problem: A belief in false gospels.

Who were the Galatians?

Who Were the False Teachers? Judaizers.

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Why Do We Need to Hear Galatians?  5 Gospel-Centered Themes

1. Divine Authority

   Galatians 1:1 (ESV) Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

   What is an apostle? “Apostle” simply means “one who is sent.”

2. The family of God

   Galatians 1:2 (ESV) and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

   What is a Church? A Community
• Relationally: The Church is a family that cares for each other.

“There is no way you will be able to grow spiritually apart from deep involvement in community of other believers.” - Tim Keller,

• Corporately: The church is local and universal.

3. Amazing Grace

**Galatians 1:3 (ESV)** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

What makes grace amazing?
• God’s grace is free! Grace - unmerited goodness of God to sinners.
• God transforms us by grace.
• God’s grace is faithful grace.
• God’s grace brings peace!

4. Christ Crucified

**Galatians 1:4 (ESV)** who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

3 Theological Dimensions of Christ’s Person and Work

• Historical Dimension - “Christ died” “was raised”
• Personal Dimension - “for our sins”
• Vertical Dimension - “to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

5. To the Glory of God!

**Galatians 1:5 (ESV)** to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.