

## The Gospel of Freedom

### I. Freedom to co-create GOOD is the Purpose and Manifestation of Our Salvation

#### A. Selfish Freedom Turns into Slavery *[slide 1]*

[Galatians 5:1](#) (ESV) For **freedom** Christ has **set us free**; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

#### B. Freedom to Serve (Stewarding BLESSING) *[slide 2]*

[Galatians 5:13](#) (ESV) For you were **called to freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**.

Serving through LOVE is the big **WHY** of our LIVES.

[Ephesians 2:8-10](#) (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

PURPOSE: **Fruitful Contribution** to the world around us, co-creating with God the GOOD WORKS that He prepared for each of us. We don't work **FOR** our salvation, but work **FROM** our salvation.

#### C. Sources (springs): Word and Spirit

[John 8:31](#) ... "If you **abide in my word**, you are **truly** my disciples, [32](#) and you will **know the truth**, and the **truth** will **set you free**."

[2 Corinthians 3:17](#) ... **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.

***UNCREATED freedom that FLOWS from the OVERFLOWING FULLNESS of God. Holy Spirit... the River within***

## D. Holy Spirit and ALL THINGS

All Things

[Mark 9:23](#) "... ***All things are possible*** for one who believes."

[Mark 10:27](#) ... "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For ***all things are possible*** with God."

[Romans 8:26–27](#) Likewise the ***Spirit*** helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the ***Spirit*** himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. [27](#) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the ***Spirit***, because the ***Spirit*** intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

[Romans 8:28](#) And we know that for those who love God ***all things work together for good***, for those who are called according to his purpose.

[Romans 8:32](#) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up ***for us*** all, ***how will he not*** also ***with him*** graciously ***give us all things?***" II. Overview of Galatians

## OVERVIEW

A. Paul Life and Authority (Chapters 1 and 2)

B. Faith Alone Theology (Chapters 3 & 4)

C. Holy Spirit Lifestyle (Chapters 5 & 6)

## II. Paul and Divinely Granted Freedom

[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—

A. Unique Call and Commission by Father and Son

NOT ***from*** (a group of ) men or ***through*** (a) man— BUT through Jesus and the Father.

## B. Risen Christ

[Galatians 1:1b](#) (ESV)..... Jesus Christ and God the Father, who **raised him from the dead**—

The FACT of the resurrection:

### 1. Basis of Essential Gospel

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#) (ESV) 3 For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received: that Christ **died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,

### 2. Resurrection into a New Life

Paul's new life began with his **encounter with the risen Christ**.

#### **Paul's Collision with Resurrection :**

[Acts 9:3-5](#) (ESV) Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and **suddenly a light from heaven** shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he **heard a voice saying** to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting."

## III. Paul and the Galatians

[Galatians 1:2-3](#) (ESV) 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,

**The MEANS (charis) and the RESULT → SHALOM**

### A. The Background Controversy

**Judaizers** — A Movement within early church — Gospel PLUS Judaism.

[Philippians 3:2](#) Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

[Acts 15:1](#) (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "**Unless you are circumcised** according to the custom of Moses, you **cannot be saved.**"

## B. Date & Impact

After 1st missionary trip;

Establishing GRACE as CATALYST of the Gospel →

Roman Province of Galatia (Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe)

1st Journey AD 45-47 *[slide 3]*

## IV. The Gift and the Purpose

*[slide 4]*

### A. Grace as Means and Peace as Result

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

### B. Rescue from Evil in the World

[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,

**Gave HIMSELF *for our sins*** — *destroying the accusations that keep us imprisoned*

to **deliver** us **from** the **present evil age**.

We are **in** it but not **of** it. We need to be **IN** but not **OF**

[John 15:19](#) If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because **you are not of the world**, but **I chose you out of the world**, therefore the world hates you.

### C. For God’s Glory

[Galatians 1:5](#) to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### D. Paul is ASTONISHED!

The Threats

1. Desertion v. 6

[Galatians 1:6](#) (ESV)

I am ***astonished*** that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

### **SHOCKED, OUTRAGED.**

“**Deserting**” is a good translation because the word was first used in a military context for traitors and turncoats.

### DESERTING **HIM who called you IN the GRACE of Christ**

#### 2. Shakings and distortions

[Galatians 1:7](#) (ESV)

not that there is **another** one, but there are some who **trouble** you and **want to distort** the gospel of Christ.

No OTHER. Troublemakers DISTORTION

[Galatians 1:8](#) (ESV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

WE

Angel from Heaven

Islam

Mormonism

Buddha

ANATHEMA

A Good Paraphrase:

[Galatians 1:6–8](#) (MSG) I can’t believe your fickleness—how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing a variant message!

<sup>7</sup> It is ***not a minor variation***, you know; it is ***completely other***, an ***alien message***, a ***no-message***, a ***lie about God***. Those who are provoking this agitation among you are turning the Message of Christ on its head.

<sup>8</sup> Let me be blunt: If one of us—even if an angel from heaven!—were to preach something other than what we preached originally, let him be cursed.

### 3. Contradictions and Curses

[Galatians 1:9](#) (ESV)

As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you **a gospel contrary** to the one you received, let him be accursed.

### 4. Seeking the Wrong Approval

[Galatians 1:10](#) (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.

## V. Paul's AUTHENTIC Message

[Galatians 1:11-12](#) (ESV)

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.

### A. Received THROUGH Direct Revelation of Jesus

#### 1. Not According to, Received from, or Taught by Human Agency

*Not an invention, or a tradition, but a revelation. Something previously unknown but unveiled by God.*

#### 2. Attacks were on Paul's legitimacy as well as his doctrine.

### B. Paul's Jewish Pedigree

[Galatians 1:13-14](#) (ESV)

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I **persecuted** the church of God **violently** and tried to **destroy** it.

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.

#### 1. Violent persecutor of the church of God

The word he uses for this is the word that the Greeks used for **sacking a city**....Paul's goal was nothing less than the **total extermination of Christianity**.

## 2. Rising star as a zealous Pharisee

He was head of the class, star student of Gamaliel, knew Torah backward and forward.

The Torah-driven life provided all the sense of meaning he needed, positive self-image, esteem in the eyes of his peers and teachers, and a confidence he was walking in the ways of God.

It was not the deficiency of his religion, but ***an unexpected encounter with the divine*** that causes his radical conversion.

### Two inferences:

No one can pretend to know more about the Torah than Paul, including the rival teachers.

Only God's personal intervention could explain the metamorphosis from such a person into a preacher of a Torah-free Gospel.

## C. Paul's Call

[Galatians 1:15–16](#) (ESV) 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 **(in)** me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

### 1. Set apart from conception

[Isaiah 49:1a](#) (ESV) The LORD called me from the womb, ...

### 2. Called through grace

### 3. The Father's delight to reveal His Son *IN* Paul

### 4. The mind-blowing PURPOSE of God for Paul's life

More radical than calling Jonah to Nineveh. Only God...

### 5. Time to process the total change.

[Galatians 1:17–18](#) (ESV)

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***.

Then ***after three years*** I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

## D. Message NOT from Other Apostles

### 1. Sorting it all out

Time to process. Paul swears he is telling the truth

[Galatians 1:19–20](#) (ESV)

But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

### 2. Peter and James: significant but secondary to Holy Spirit

Paul undoubtedly learned many things from Peter and James. He must have asked both of them about their encounters with the risen Christ, because Peter and James are the only two individuals he mentions by name in his list of the people who saw Christ after his resurrection in [1Cor 15](#).

Paul's 1st visit was after 3 years, it lasted only 2 weeks, and he only saw 2 apostles.

***He did not receive his gospel from the Jerusalem apostles***, he had already received it by revelation.

*Not an invention, or a tradition, but a revelation. Something previously unknown but unveiled by God.*

## E. Nor From the Judean Churches

[Galatians 1:21–24](#) (ESV)

Then I went into the regions of ***Syria and Cilicia***.

And I was ***still unknown*** in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

And they glorified God because of me.

**Paul's conversion made people nervous.**

## VI. Approval and Controversy

[Galatians 2:1–2](#) (ESV)



<sup>1</sup> Then **after fourteen years** I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

<sup>2</sup> I went up **because of a revelation** and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order **to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain**.

## A. The Visit to Jerusalem

### B. Circumcision Controversy

[Galatians 2:3–5](#) (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

<sup>4</sup> Yet **because of false brothers** secretly brought in—who **slipped in to spy out our freedom** that we have in Christ Jesus, so **that they might bring us into slavery**—

<sup>5</sup> to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, **so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you**.

[Acts 15:1](#) (ESV) But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

[Galatians 2:9](#) (ESV) and when **James** and **Cephas** and **John**, who seemed to be pillars, **perceived the grace** that was given to me, they **gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me**, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

### C. Dangerous Traces of Cultural Norms

#### 1. Peter’s bad example

[Galatians 2:11](#) But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

## Eating with Gentiles, Separated, even Barnabas followed

#### 2. Paul’s defense of FREEDOM

[Galatians 2:14](#) But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

## VII. The Gospel of Grace and Freedom

### A. Justification by Faith

[Galatians 2:15-16](#) We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;

16 yet we know that a person is **not justified by works** of the law **but through faith in Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

### B. No Turning Back

[Galatians 2:18-20](#) For **if I rebuild what I tore down**, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

### C. Died to the Law; Alive to God

19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

3 v 3 Christ became a curse for us.

[Deuteronomy 21:23](#) ... a hanged man is cursed by God.

[Romans 7:4](#) Likewise, my brothers, you also have **died to the law through the body of Christ**, so that you may **belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order that** we may **bear fruit for God**.

### D. The Life I Now Live **[slide 5]**

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

[Galatians 2:21](#) (ESV)

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

## VIII. Life in the Spirit — Paul’s Gospel

Keep in Step with the Spirit

[Galatians 5:16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

[Galatians 5:18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

[Galatians 5:25](#) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

KINGDOM OF GOD is LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Distinction of Paul’s Gospel

God is the one who ***set us apart from birth***. God’s gracious choice goes all the way back to eternity past, long before we were able to choose him.