

A Valuable Greeting Pt. 5

Galatians 1:1-5, CBC, Wednesday, October 23, 2024 Holy, Holy, Holy

Votes are on wall—young church—working on gospel central, mission coming from THAT relationship w God in day when relationships not good/commitment tied to immediate felt benefit rather than to One who called and mission; Don't get this, then skewed look at these other pieces; but as head this direction, then start dealing with these necessary pieces—what does it mean to support missions/missionaries? What should be their responsibility to God/us, what should be normal for those we support—what about our responsibilities to them? Budget—should symbolize mission of church—you should see people and gospel movement in each line—**deacon**—what is a deacon, how does it differ from elder? Where does Scripture have them heading? How are we all heading there? **If they are gifts to church to head there—how would we help these/future elders/deacons to better fulfill roles God has given them**—holds them accountable to/for—what is your responsibility to head of church w these/related questions—I long for you all to grow in these areas and to do that TOGETHER w and under your God-given leaders here; **The world is broken, you are not the center, God is—and He is Creator, Redeemer, Sovereign Sustainer, Final Judge**—**as those professing to live by faith in the Son of God, where did you meditate on Him as such today?** **In. 5:24-25**

Greeting should simply be **Paul to churches of Galatia, Grace & Peace**—but longer than most of his greetings; VERY important to honor author by seeking heart, tone, goals; w Scripture, want to honor God's intent so don't use as hammer for our own goals or to let us off hook; can't cover all—add to, stimulate more/careful study—**increase trust in Word of God in way that leads to worship and obedience as God intends** **I. Paul's Place** **1 Paul, A. Calling** identifies as **an apostle**, this position and requisite authority under attack and large part of this letter, so spent time unpacking ramifications for them and for us under 3 headings **1. Watch Diminishing God's Prerogative in Revealing His Word by Leveling the Human Playing Field. 2. Watch Diminishing God's Prerogative in Protecting His People by Replacing Fellowship with Him as Source of Unity 3. Watch Diminishing God's Eternality by Eliminating His Progressive Revelation and Work Throughout History to Preserve that Word as He Intended** Paul claiming authority from God Himself to real people then (they didn't accept position from God/role as given—therefore messy, firm discussion/defense) how about us today? If even preachers don't have same authority as these original apostles, then what do we have from God Himself? understanding God HAS spoken through those apostles/prophets should lead us to deal w structure and calling God given us today; Eph. 4 God gave apostles, pastors, teachers FOR equipping; while pastor's don't have SAME authority, we have biblical authority tied to revelation given us in Word, affirmed by local church **TO acknowledge THEIR apostolic or prophetic authority and shepherding souls according to that authoritative word from God to us today**; THIS is why equipping necessitates VERY careful study of each Scripture by rest of Scripture and yield to what has been given; **What** are you doing to meditate on God for God? Does your growing love for God and desire for Him to receive the honor due Him include slowly picking through what you believe about Him as life exposes your true beliefs? Does your desire for growth in God-glorifying faith show dependence on the Spirit, yielding to God's means of prayerful study of God's Word in connection with the saints? Jesus came in history; Creation NOT a myth; His return REAL and so are these happenings in Scripture—**when just study for what it means for us, miss God's intent as given IN history, to THEM, then progressively wrestled w inside history, THEN comes to US**; Watch subtlety of different gospel;

II. Place of believer

2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: --written to north or south Galatia? Pages and pages—the Gauls settled after invading in third century BC, so thought perhaps written to these Gauls/Celts—**Ryken notes that if churches in northern Galatia not mentioned anywhere else in NT, then how do they get such focus w controversy and error here?** Romans expanded Galatian province--in Paul's day, province included large area touched Black Sea in north and Mediterranean in south (Romans conquered Galatia in 64 BC, province of Galatia established in 25 BC—eventually, in AD 74, Pisidia separated from Galatia and AD 137 Lycaonia Galatica removed and added to province of Cilicia—early commentaries focused on the province as it later existed in the later Roman history—so thought written to ethnic Galatians in north, Schreiner; **much** work done leaving those writing in 20th century focused on southern cities Paul visited first on first missionary journey Acts 13-14--Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe) **Ryken says Paul's recollection in Gal. 4:12-15 fits Luke's description of those cities Acts 13:1-14:28 (ie. 13:38-39); if placing in Acts, centers around Jerusalem council in Acts 15—ie. Did Paul's confrontation w Peter Gal. 2:11-14 took place b/r council (Acts 14:26-15:2) Bruce notes seems to fit w Acts 15:1 dissension in church of Syrian Antioch—Ligonier notes, if southern/b/r Acts 15 council, then Galatians written 48-49AD right after first missionary journey in 46-48; then earliest of Paul's letters; council of Acts 15 in 49/50 AD—perhaps visit Paul refers to in Gal. 2 famine relief visit of Acts 11:30, 12:25** Ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/who-were-the-galatians; unsure, but even if earliest, Bruce notes Paul had been “saved” at least 15 years; **all authority makes him seem above; he DOES have unique role and will defend that fiercely; but here, showing all recipients of SAME gospel; all have same identity and purpose**—nothing, not even circumcision separates them

III. Place of God

What is God's place in this greeting? Tell me all you learn about Him and the implications for the believer

A. Personhood of God Includes Full Divinity of Christ

2 (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), opposition to source in humanity, focus on Jesus as divine; **Acts 9:3-6** (Saul called Saul 11 times after conversion—Jesus didn't rename him Greg Lanier “No, ‘Saul the Persecutor’ Did Not Become ‘Paul the Apostle’ Gospel Coalition 5/3/17) **NAIL** down divinity of Christ—we have sloppy foundation against Mormon's, Jehovah's Witness, etc. **EVEN** to pass to children; Nicene Creed—started in 325 council of nicea, but added to council of Constantinople 381, accepted in present form council of chalcedon in 451--**We** believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. . . . The Athanasian Creed—early 6th

century—long after Athanasius but his name attached as he defended the Trinity--Leader: Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith: All: That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence. For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal. . . . Leader: The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone. The Son was neither made nor created; he was begotten from the Father alone. The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten; he proceeds from the Father and the Son. . . But it is necessary for eternal salvation that one also believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. Now this is the true faith: All: That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human, equally. He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity. Leader: Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person. For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh, so too the one Christ is both God and human. He suffered for our salvation; he descended to hell; he arose from the dead; he ascended to heaven; he is seated at the Father's right hand; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. . . . All: This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it. **how start toward firm statement of doctrine? start by collecting texts that point to Jesus' divinity and humanity;** verses like these what led to these creeds; see Jesus' humanity Gal. 4:4, but here, 2x divinity, **3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,** if doubt He cares for you/rest of humanity—**study interaction b/n Trinity to learn of relationship AND to learn what it means to be in Christ**—here, personal call of God comes from relational God—THEY in agreement; but also, these two persons in Trinity responsible for giving grace/peace

B. Author of Salvation and Source of All Good for the Believer

v.1 immediately focuses on the gospel **who raised Him from the dead**, one of central aspects of gospel; **I Cor. 15:1-4 why resurrection first?** First interaction w resurrected Christ; this blew away all former constructions of Law/Messiah; not Paul alone, but others eyewitnesses! Jesus Christ w God the Father shows exalted place risen Christ has in Paul's thinking; in resurrection, wears a heavenly humanity as life-giving spirit I Cor. 15:45-49 and has been invested by God w designation kurios—LORD – name above every name Phil. 2:9, Bruce Like new covenant promises of old, signifies fulfillment of God's promises to make dead live—ie. Dry bones of Ezekiel 37; **Daniel 12:1-3;** but this not gospel alone--**4 who gave Himself for our sins** voluntary, not forced **John 10:17-18, Matt. 27:50;** transaction—II Cor. 5:21 He became our substitute—sin-offering; we can NOT pay for our sins;**I Jn. 4:10, Rom. 3:23-26, Jm. 1:12** every good gift—right at top, God gave of Himself to rescue, deliver—not only this, but to restore to Himself—relational--**Jn. 3:14-17, Col. 1:13, I Pet. 3:18; NO conflict within the Trinity, "as if a loving Son had to rescue us from an angry Father."** On the contrary, the willingness of the Son was in response to the Father's will. The Father does not love us because the Son died for us. Rather, the Son died for us because the Father loves us." Ryken, p. 13 God delivers! OT presentation of God—God of promise, God of rescue **Is. 48:17, Zeph. 3:17, Ps. 46:1, 68:20, Ps. 86:15** then **why do we focus on God of wrath vs. God of love instead of seeing wonder of holy God who comes near to mankind and does what is needed to make a way for us to be objects of His mercy instead of His wrath?**

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

Psalms 68:20 God is to us a God of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.

Psalms 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Isaiah 48:17 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you in the way you should go.

Daniel 12:1-3 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3 "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

John 3:14-17 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 5:24-25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 10:17-18 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Acts 14:26-15:2 From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples. 1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

Romans 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

1 Timothy 3:14-16 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.