

A Valuable Greeting Pt. 3

Galatians 1:1-5, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

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I. Paul's Place

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- I. Paul's Place
 - A. Calling

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Galatians 1:1-5

‘But get up and stand on your feet; **for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;** 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from **the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,** 18 **to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’**

Acts 26:16-18

Am I not free? **Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; **for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

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Why would a clear defense of Paul's apostleship be important (in context of Galatian believers) and why is this essential for us to understand now?

- Give framework for hard things that must be said and to make sure not lost among other opinions
- Because otherwise he would use other previous identities to supplant this position and message
- Establish path and priority of authority in relationship to gospel commissioned to give
- Gentile and Jewish- messy problem that would invalidate message on both sides (big personalities almost divided whole church)
- For today- what about "red letter Christians?" how does the OT fit with NT?
- Because he had been given a slightly different line to Christ Himself
- There is much at stake; asking them to give up a bunch (traditions, what comes naturally to themselves, cultural norms) and to take on a new perspective- whole basis for eternal standing with God at stake
- There is a context for these words
- Here, Paul not looking to draw authority from other apostles or from others feeling that Paul was trustworthy

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Galatians 1:1-5

“St. Paul and St. John were men of like passions to ourselves. However great their inspiration . . . being human, their inspiration was not even or uniform . . . For with their inspiration went that degree of psychopathology which is the common lot of all men. They too had their inner axes to grind of which they were unaware. What therefore they tell us must have a self-authenticating quality, like music. **If it doesn't, we must be prepared to refuse it. We must have the courage to disagree.**”

H. A. Williams in *Objections to Christian Belief*

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Why would a clear defense of Paul's apostleship be important and why is this essential for us to understand now?

1. Watch Diminishing God's Prerogative in Revealing His Word by Leveling the Human Playing Field.

A Valuable Greeting Pt. 3 Galatians 1:1-5

What are the “larger influences” to which we look that might mask our tendency to let someone/something larger than us be the object of our faith rather than God Himself?

- Political realm
- Sincerity (can't be wrong)
- Social media
- People want to please (have their favor) by looking godly
- Sense of accomplishment through our service
- Desire to speak truth
- People you trust (family hold to this for generation; family sacrificed for this belief)

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Galatians 1:1-5

“since the Bible authors were churchmen, the church wrote the Bible. Therefore the church is over the Bible and has authority not only to interpret it, but also to supplement it.”

John Stott giving the Roman Catholic position

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Galatians 1:1-5

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 3:14-16

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Why would a clear defense of Paul's apostleship be important and why is this essential for us to understand now?

- 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.**

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Galatians 1:1-5

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

2 Timothy 2:15-17

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What are good/dangerous reasons for wanting people to read Galatians “as if the Reformation had never happened”?

- Good: - To understand in its historical context free from our biases, assumptions
- Doctrine theology, Catholics that are outside of us but need to live “real” faith in the unseen not by larger groups or time ‘periods’
- Shouldn’t start w/ Reformation for our theology
- Response to what was happening - we don’t deal with exact nature of their situation now (perhaps deeper issue was gospel being subverted- THIS is what we must ascertain in present time)

- Danger: - Failing to consider the progressive nature of coming to understand implications of God’s Word
- Watch how we make parallels but must find essence of what was warned against

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Galatians 1:1-5

“ . . . none of us can read Galatians as if the Reformation never occurred. Such a reading is five hundred years too late. Nor can we read Galatians as if the twentieth century never happened or apart from the works of Ignatius, Irenaeus, Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, and the like. We can consider whether Reformation emphases were wrong (I will argue that they were not), but what we cannot do is read Galatians as if we were the first readers.”

Tom Schreiner

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Galatians 1:1-5

“We have taken it upon ourselves in the Lord’s name to lecture on this Epistle of Paul to the Galatians once more. This is not because we want to teach something new or unknown, for, by the grace of God, Paul is very well known to you, but it is because, as I often warn you, there is a present danger that the devil may take away from us the pure doctrine of faith and may substitute for it the doctrines of works and of human traditions.”

Martin Luther

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A Valuable Greeting Galatians 1:1-5

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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.**

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Galatians 1:1-5

“I do not seek [my own] active righteousness. I ought to have and perform it; but I declare that even if I did have it and perform it, I cannot trust in it or stand up before the judgment of God on the basis of it. Thus I . . . embrace only . . . the righteousness of Christ . . . which we do not perform but receive, which we do not have but accept, when God the Father grants it to us through Jesus Christ.”

Martin Luther

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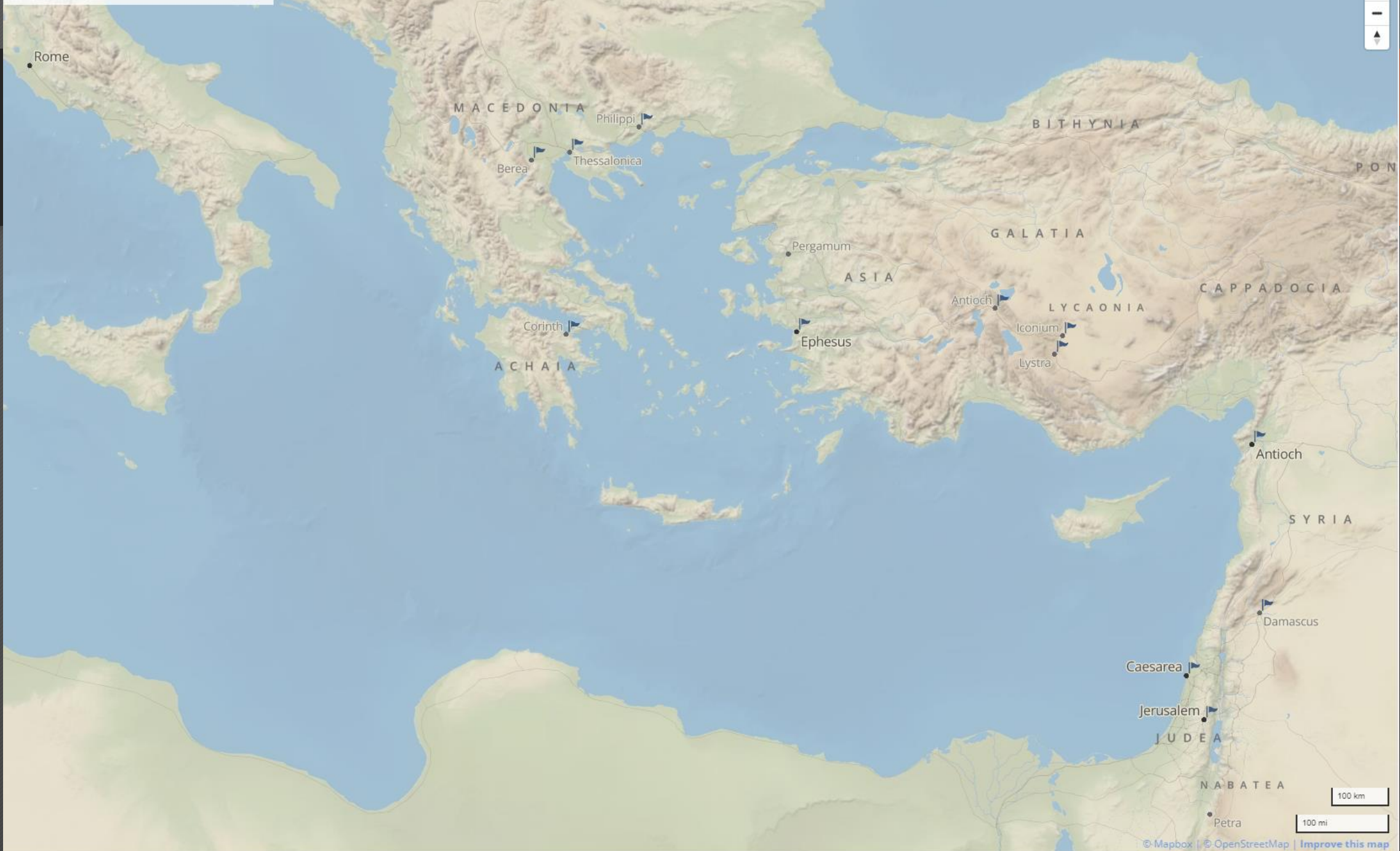
Galatians 1:1-5

“Therefore, God accepts only the forsaken, cures only the sick, gives sight only to the blind, restores life to only the dead, sanctifies only the sinners, gives wisdom only to the unwise fools. In short, He has mercy only on those who are wretched, and gives grace only to those who are not in grace. Therefore no proud saint, no wise or just person, can become God’s material, and God’s purpose cannot be fulfilled in him. He remains in his own work and makes a fictitious, pretended, false, and painted saint of himself, that is, a hypocrite.”

Martin Luther

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- I. Paul's Place
- II. The Believer's Place



Paul's Mission in Cyprus, Galatia, and Pamphylia

- Paul's route from Antioch (Syria) to Salamis
- Paul's route from Salamis to Paphos
- Paul's route from Paphos to Perga
- Paul's route from Perga to Pisidian Antioch via the western route
- Paul's route from Pisidian Antioch to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
- Paul's route from Derbe to Pisidian Antioch
- Paul's route from Pisidian Antioch to Perga via the central route
- Paul's route from Perga to Antioch (Syria)

