

## The Great Deliverer

### Galatians 1:1-12

*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 brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia.*

This is the earliest of Apostle Paul's letters; 48-49 AD – First mission trip into southern Galatia a region w/ cities Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (Acts 13,14) **Gentile territory**. He planted churches in each city. **Apostle to Gentiles**. He preached simple Gospel 'Justification by grace alone, thru faith alone, in Christ alone.

Work of God is always met w/ attacks of enemy. Here it was trouble w/ Jewish legalist who said they believe in Jesus Christ yet held to religious traditions of Judaism (law of Moses & circumcision). Rules & regulations of old need to be followed for salvation.

Same today baptismal regeneration Sabbath (Saturday) keeping, Communion, Dress, Hair, Makeup, non-instrumental worship, Entertainment, Music, Dancing, Smoking, etc. Taking eyes of Christ & onto self. **Result**; **critical** spirit, **steal** your joy—Saying Paul self-appointed not one of 12—if discredit him can discredit his teaching.

Churches under spell of these false teachers—strange that they welcomed them as enthusiastically as did Paul. . ***Ironside*** '***There is something about error when once it grips the minds of people that makes it assume an importance that the truth itself never had. That is a peculiar thing. One may be going on w/ the truth of God in a calm, easy way, and then he gets hold of something erroneous and he pushes that thing to the very limit***'.

Defection from the faith by churches he started reached his ears while at Corinth so he wrote this letter by his own hand. He got straight to the point w/o any praise or commendation in ch 1,2 He **defends** his apostleship ch 3,4 He deals w/ right **doctrine** ch 5,6 He give **practical** application.

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No human element in Paul's calling. He lays out his credentials in this letter more than any other. He affirms what false teachers deny, that he is a true apostle, one among the 12, a special group called & chosen by Jesus Christ. Unique & w/o successors. *Lit* sent forth as ambassador. **12 exclusive**-- Taught by Jesus personally, Eyewitness of resurrection Acts 1:21,22; Signs and wonder 2Cor 12:12 Their teachings established church practice & doctrine Eph 2:20

Other NT apostles-**sent ones**-but 12 have special distinction '*Paul born out of due season*'. Modern missionaries in broad sense fulfill role.

His calling thru *Jesus Christ and God the Father*, inferring equality of Father & Son. Plus a powerful commendation of Paul's ministry.

Seminaries(**liberal-deny faith**) created & run by men to put men into ministry that are not necessarily called by God. **Moody 'laying empty hands on empty heads'**

*All the brethren who are with me*—a distinction that sets Paul apart-*brethren* as witnesses—He defends his authority in order to defend His message. Today New apostolic movement of those self-appointed.

*(Listen to the teaching and you'll know if called by God or not.)*

*'St Paul & St John were men of like passions to ourselves. However great their inspiration, being human, their inspiration was not even or uniform...For w/ their inspiration went that degree of psycho-pathology 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.'*

We don't self-authenticate the Bible, the Bible authenticates us. It is a divine **GPS**--God Positioning System--determining where we're at in respect to God & His word. It validates or disqualifies us & our position.

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They go on to say *“There are still apostles & prophets in the Church, and there is an emerging Apostolic Movement that will revolutionize the 21<sup>st</sup> C Church...it will be said of the apostles soon to be anointed that they have turned an upside down world right side up. Nations will tremble at the mention of their name...becoming immortal, and thus impervious to injury or death will be the result of having attained spiritual perfection thru obedience to the apostles & prophets”*

Another leader claimed...*the aging process had stopped for him & when asked his age, he would simply answer ‘I am’. He assured people that he would never die but was in the process of being changed into a incorruptible life...A ‘New Breed’ of apostles and prophets is being raised up who will assume their end-time role of leading the church to take dominion and to execute God’s judgments in the world...’dump all that carnal stuff (doctrine) & listen to what the ‘spirit is saying to the churches thru the Latter Rain Prophets and Apostles, who are dispensing many ‘new, sacred truths’.*

New apostles, new truths, new breed is nothing new but only old error repackaged for 21<sup>st</sup> C all happening in the Protestant church

Roman Catholic church *‘Since the authors were churchmen, the church wrote the Bible. Therefore the church is over the Bible & has authority not only to interpret it, but also to supplement it. Roman Catholic Church usurps a position higher than the bible* (so does book of Mormon).

Paul didn’t say *‘Paul an apostle of the church, commissioned by the church to write to you Galatians’*. But he carefully avoided that inference, saying his commission & message is from God, not a group of men or church system.

*3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*Grace & Peace* sum up Paul’s message—a result of salvation. **Peace** w/ God & others & w/in. Source of salvation by **grace**—undeserved favor regardless of a person’s history. Unearned & freely given.

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*Gave Himself* :4—salvation originates w/ God & keeps us until heaven. Our part is to believe in Jesus work on cross, burial & resurrection—finished work

*Deliver us present evil age*—Salvation is a rescue from **bondage** of world & our **sinful selves**—into freedom of Christ. So it's rescue mission, operation liberation, no longer bound to world, flesh, devil but freedom. As *Israel delivered from Pharaoh. Peter from prison* Acts 12. *Paul from lynch mob* 23:27. Illustration describing salvation. **Houdini**

A small town in the British Isles built a jail & challenged Houdini to pick the lock & escape. He walked into the prison cell full of confidence. He had done this hundreds of times before. Houdini hid inside his belt a special **lock-pick** he had designed. Once the jail cell was shut, he took off his coat & went to work w/ his lock pick. But he discovered that something was unusual about this particular lock. For 30 minutes he worked & got nowhere. His confidence began to fade after an hour & still he had not been able to spring the lock. By now he was bathed in sweat & panting in exasperation, but still no success. He tried all the tricks of his trade but nothing worked. After two hours & totally exhausted, Houdini literally collapsed against the cell door & it swung wide open—it had never been locked.

Sins cell door is unlocked, we don't have to pick the lock to gain freedom—Jesus is the door—trust Him—in faith fall on Him. **Waimea fall backwards**

Notice It's *God's will*, the moment we believe we are **justified** (**saved from penalty of sin**) Now walking w/ Lord, power of HS changes us from the inside out--**sanctification** (**saved from power of sin**) one day soon we will be **glorified** (**saved from presence of sin**) – God does this in us & for us for **our benefit** & **His glory**.

*6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a **different** gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert** the gospel of Christ.*

It is serious business to give flawed information--wrong directions

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H.A. Ironside – A woman w/ her little babe was traveling on a train thru the eastern states. It was a cold, wintry day. Outside a blizzard was blowing, a snowstorm w/ sleet everywhere. The train crept along slowly due to ice on the tracks as the snow-plow went ahead clearing the way. The woman seemed nervous. She was to get off at a small station where she would be met by some friends. She said to the conductor, *'you will be sure & let me know the right station won't you?'* *"Certainly"* he said, *"Just remain here until I tell you the right station"* She sat rather rigid & again spoke to the conductor. *'You won't forget me?'* *"No just trust me. I will tell you when to get off."* A business man across the aisle leaned over & said, *"pardon me, but I see you are very nervous about getting off at your station. I know this route well. Your station is the first stop after such & such a city. These conductors can be forgetful, they have many things to attend to & he may overlook you, but I will see that you get off all right"* *'Oh thank you'* she said. And she leaned back greatly relieved. Soon the name of the city she mentioned was called, & he leaned over & said, *'the next stop will be yours'* As the train slowed she looked around anxiously for the conductor, but he did not come. *'You see'* the man said, *'he has forgotten you. I will get you off'* & he helped her w/ her baggage, & as the conductor had not come to open the door, he opened it & as the train stopped he stepped off, lifted her bag, helped her off, & in a moment the train moved on. A few minutes later the conductor came & looking all about said, *"Why, that's strange. There was a woman here who wanted to get off at this station. I wonder where she is"* The business man spoke up & said, *'Yes, you forgot her, but I saw that she got off all right'* *'Got off, Where?'* The conductor asked. *'When the train stopped'*. *'But that was not a station. That was an emergency stop. I was looking after that woman. You have put her off in a wild country district in the midst of all this storm where there will be nobody to meet her'*. There was only one thing to do, & although it was rather dangerous, they reversed the engine & went back a number of miles. They left the train to look for the woman. They searched & searched & finally somebody stumbled upon her frozen body w/ her little dead babe in her arm. She was the victim of wrong information.

Not sins of a weak **flesh** **but** deeper sins of a **spiritual** nature-departure from Gospel. If we're supposed to help God w/ salvation then Jesus cry from the cross needs correcting. Instead of *'It is finished'* should be *'it is almost finished'* or *'just about finished'* or *'close to being finished'* or *'I need your help to finish it'* But that would **pervert**-change-be a different gospel

If it's up to us to complete Christ salvation--never sure if doing enough--good enough--serving enough--praying enough--witnessing enough, etc.

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*Grace of Christ* means—nothing on our part, we didn't earn it, we're not entitled to it, but God gives it freely for the asking. Salvation is offered on basis of grace thru faith in Christ work **Titus 3:5**

*Turning away*-deserting - soldier defecting, transfer allegiance to *different* kind (**doctrine**)-Good news to Bad news. Pictures them turning back to what they did before salvation—rituals, self-directed religion—*flesh validating itself thru religious means*. Yoga, Vege, Mantra, Breathing, Severe treatment of body-*gives appearance of wisdom in self made religion* Col 2:23

Galatians were moving away from what Paul taught (**Good news**)-to a distorted version of gospel—*as carnival mirror*—warped image of real—if it all you saw you'd think normal (**Twilight Zone-eye of the beholder**)—But you know better-have the real-you know it's a distortion & are going along w/ it.

*8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **accursed**. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be **accursed**. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Accursed-double *anathema*-a thing devoted to destruction- **separated from Christ & His salvation**. *Preaching* something different than gospel (**it saved them**)---a heavy indictment —Adding to Christ salvation is doubly cursed — Because it empties Gospel of its power— redirects emphasis away from Jesus & onto us—Stunts growth—Robs God of glory

*Should Christians declare curses?* It's God declaring what will befall those who turn others away from the faith or hinder the Gospel going out. **Paul to-Elymas-blind for a season 'full deceit & fraud'**

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Jesus said *The servant is not above his master if they persecuted me they will persecute you.....* He also said *in this world you shall suffer persecution.* When we hold to the truths of scripture w/o compromise, you'll suffer the sting of the enemy.

When you seek to please God, expect that you will not please all people. And if you seek to please all people you will not please God and will find yourself compromising the bible and your Christian faith.

Jesus said *Woe to you when all men speak well of you for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets. Lk 6:26*

16<sup>th</sup> C Leader of reformation in Scotland **John Knox** *"Give me Scotland or I die"* buried in 1572 – it was said of him *'Here lies one who feared God so much he never feared the face of man'*

**Hugh Latimer** leader of reformation in England while preaching during reign of **King Henry VIII** aware he was about to say something the king would not approve paused & began to rehearse in his mind *"Latimer, Latimer, Latimer, be careful what you say. Henry the king is here."* Then, after a short pause he said, *"Latimer, Latimer, Latimer, be careful what you say. The King of Kings is here."* Good fear conquered bad fear. Later in 1555 he was burned at the stake. So it was w/ Paul the Apostle