

The Significance of the Gospel

Galatians 1: 3-5

As I studied this passage I was reminded of the many difficulties we face today. You certainly don't need me to tell you that things are desperate in our time. People are struggling today more than any other time most of us can remember. We face great economic and social challenges, not to mention the enormous spiritual decline that we experienced in recent years.

As we consider the problems of our day I realize that many are seeking solutions to these problems. The majority simply want someone to do something to alleviate their suffering. If we were to poll the masses today I am sure that we would get a varied response. Some are looking to political figures for solutions. Others are looking to Wall Street or financial planners. Some are even looking to organized religion. Many have an opinion as to who is responsible and whom they feel might be able to make a difference, but the problem is in their focus. The majority are looking to man for a solution. [Ps.118:8 – It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.](#)

I am in no way trying to minimize the difficulties we all face, but I am also aware that these problems are temporal. They affect our physical existence. Life may continue to be hard, but one day we will pass from this life and the troubles it brings. The greatest need humanity faces today is not an economic or social crisis, but a spiritual one. The majority may continue to look to men for solutions, but they will only find more disappointment and grief. [Ps.49:6-7 – They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; \[7\] None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:](#) We need to look to Jesus for the solution to our problems. He alone can provide what we really need, and only through Him can we be assured of an eternal future of peace and rest.

The churches in Galatia faced many problems as well. I am certain they faced problems and difficulties that you and I couldn't even imagine. Paul sought to encourage the church and strengthen their faith. He wanted them to enjoy the peace and comfort of the Lord. [Gal.1:3 – Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.](#) Paul understood that Jesus was the solution to their problems and peace would only come through a right relationship with Him. I want to expound upon the [certainties](#) presented in the text as we consider: [The Significance of the Gospel.](#)

I. The Sacrifice of Christ (4) – [Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:](#) Paul emphasizes the fact that Christ gave Himself for our sins. The Galatian churches needed to recognize and embrace the sacrifice Jesus made for the sins of humanity. He offered Himself as the sacrifice for the fallen race.

- The legalistic Jews wanted to hold to the teachings and mandates of the law. Under the law, countless sacrifices had been offered, but none could fully atone for sin. There was always a need for another sacrifice. [Heb.10:4 – For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.](#) God is holy and cannot condone sin. Sin separates us from God. If man was to ever be reconciled to God, there had to be a perfect sacrifice. Jesus alone was worthy to provide that sacrifice. He alone was worthy to atone for the sins of humanity.

- We need to consider the enormity of this sacrifice. Jesus came to this earth as a man, born of a virgin womb, robed in flesh, but He was not an ordinary man. He was God in flesh. He possessed all the deity of God. He lived a perfect, sinless life. The Just died for the unjust. The Innocent died for the guilty. The Lamb of God was offered as the perfect, atoning sacrifice for sin. [1 Pet.2:24 – Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.](#)

II. The Substitution of Christ (4) – [Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:](#) Paul reveals that Christ died for our sins. He was guilty of no sin of His own. He was not crucified because He had blasphemed God as the Jews testified. His life was lived in perfect fellowship with God. He lived the life we never could. God demanded a perfect sacrifice and Jesus was righteous, becoming that sacrifice.

- This is further confirmed when we consider the little word “for” in the text. This literally means “[instead of, in place of, as our substitute, in behalf of our sin.](#)” Sin caused separation and condemnation before God. Without atonement there would be no hope of reconciliation; we would all be hopelessly lost and condemned. We were the guilty and we deserved death. Christ gave Himself in our place, on our behalf. He offered Himself for our sin!

- Consider this: the wrath of God was poured out in judgment of sin. Christ bore that wrath in His body for our sin. [Is.53:10 – Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.](#) [2 Cor.5:21 – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.](#) By offering Himself in our place, He endured the wrath and judgment of God because of sin.

III. The Salvation of Christ (4) – [Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:](#) As we have already mentioned, we were condemned before God because of sin. We had no hope within ourselves of reconciliation. [Rom.3:10 – As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:](#) [Rom.3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;](#) [Is.64:6a – But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.](#) We were guilty and without hope. We stood in desperate need of a Deliverer.

- Christ came to provide redemption and salvation for fallen man. He came to deliver us from this present evil world and sinful state. He came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. The word *deliver* means “*to pluck out, rescue, select, choose for one’s self.*” Humanity needed a sacrifice worthy to appease the righteous demands of God and Jesus chose to become that sacrifice, rescuing us from the condemnation and judgment of sin. *Titus 2:14 – Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* *1 Pet.3:18 – For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*

IV. The Sovereignty of Christ (4) – *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:* This was all within the divine will of God. I have said many times that this was no accident. This was not Plan B. God had not tried other means of redemption and failed. This was the plan and will of God before the foundation of the world. God knew mankind would sin and need a Savior. He knew that before He ever created Adam. He knew before He ever spoke creation into existence that His only begotten Son would die for the sins of the world.

- Never believe that the crucifixion and death of Christ was some horrible mistake. It was the greatest injustice time will ever know, but it was all within the will of God. Christ submitted to the will of God by submitting to the death of the cross. He was aware of Calvary prior to His humble birth in Bethlehem. *Jn.12:27 – Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.* *Gal.4:4-5 – But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, [5] To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Heb.10:4-7 – For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [5] Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: [6] In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. [7] Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*

V. The Satisfaction in Christ (5) – *To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* Paul was aware of the price that was paid, the sacrifice made, and the redemption that was secured. He rejoiced and offered praise unto the Lord for His provision for sinful men. He pointed the Galatian believers to Christ for their source of strength and rejoicing. We need not look to any other. Jesus provided a ransom for the sins of men. He alone is worthy of our worship. The angles in heaven proclaim His praise around the throne. *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.*

- We need to realize that God the Father is pleased and satisfied as well. Christ forever atoned for sin and there will never need to be another sacrifice. Heb.9:28 –So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Heb.10:12 – But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; Philip.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: [10] That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; [11] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Clearly we are in the midst of difficult and trying times. The question is: to whom are you looking for peace and direction? Who are you trusting in this morning? The problems of this life will continue as long as we live.

However, I want to remind you that eternity waits all of us. We could live a life of ease on earth, with all the pleasures one could desire, but we will leave it all behind at death. Have you made preparation to meet the Lord should He call for you today? Do you know for certain you will go to heaven when you die? Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.