

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS **NO OTHER GOSPEL: FREEDOM IN CHRIST**

LESSON 1: "The Nature of the Gospel" **Date:** Aug 24/Sept 7, 2014
TEXT: Galatians 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

In _____, the key verses of this epistle, Paul writes with an air of elitism when he sharply criticizes the Galatians for "deserting" the gospel he had preached to them and "turning to a different gospel" (i.e., a gospel of works), one that he's not even willing to call "gospel." And, he has a harsh label for a betrayer—"accursed." As Paul writes, he simply models what Bible-believing Christians have clung to throughout church history—that there is "no other gospel" than the gospel of _____, the good news of freedom in Christ!

Throughout this book, Paul's organization is clear. In 1:1-2:10, he defends the _____ of the gospel; in 2:11-4:31, he demonstrates the _____ of the gospel in salvation (i.e., freedom in Christ from bondage to sin and the law); and in 5:1-6:18, he describes the _____ of the gospel in sanctification (i.e., freedom in Christ from sin's control and legalistic bondage). Together, this epistle serves as "the definitive statement on the problem of legalism" and a comprehensive treatise on real freedom in Christ. Indeed, there is "no other gospel"! Apart from grace, there is no "good news"!

As we begin to study Paul's impassioned letter to the Galatian churches, we will first consider the gospel's priority. **The true gospel of grace must be our** _____—all other religious messages and methods really are inferior. As we examine the first chapter of this letter, we see that Paul communicates this truth by describing three different aspects of the gospel—its nature, its source, and its goal. This lesson will focus on that first aspect—the nature of the gospel—and will do so under three headings.

THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL (v. 1)

This letter is written, as it states in verse 1, by "Paul, the apostle." Now, there is an oxymoron! And anyone who knew Paul's history understood the _____ of such of title (cf. Galatians 1:23; Acts 9:21, 26).

The gospel, by its very nature, is powerful!

- For _____
- For _____
- For _____

THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL (vv. 2-3)

1. **The gospel provides us with a** _____ **(v. 2a)**
2. **The gospel provides us with a new** _____ **(v. 2b)**
3. **The gospel provides us with spiritual** _____ **(v. 3)**

THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL (vv. 4-5)

1. _____ **(v. 4)**
2. _____ **(v. 4)**
3. _____ **(v. 1)**
4. _____ **(v. 4)**
5. _____ **(v. 4)**
6. _____ **(v. 5)**

Application:

CONCLUSION

Such is the nature of the gospel, and it can be summarized in the title of C. H. Spurgeon's autobiography—*All of Grace!*

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1. _____ *(v. 4)*
2. _____ *(v. 4)*
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