

## Introduction: A Proper View of Authority

Authority comes from God, who is the ultimate Authority. Human authority is given by Him and is meant to be used under His Lordship and for His glory. Because of this, we should not be distrustful of it or prone to misuse it for selfish or harmful purposes. Instead, authority is to be stewarded faithfully for God’s glory and the good of others.

**Main Point:** \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to our God and so, therefore, does the message of the Gospel.

### Galatians 1:1-5

- Paul begins his letter to the Galatians by asserting his \_\_\_\_\_ as an apostle of Jesus Christ. (1:1-2)

*“Paul”*

*“an apostle”* – One to whom authority has been delegated; a person commissioned to represent another.

“In describing himself with this word, Paul focuses upon both his role as sent from God to convey the gospel message and his authoritative role to interpret and apply that message.” - Michael H. Burer

- (1) His authority as an apostle did NOT have a \_\_\_\_\_ source or origin.

*“not from men”*

*“nor through man”*

- (2) Rather, its source was \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.

*“through Jesus Christ and God the Father”* → The emphasis is on \_\_\_\_\_ of purpose.

➤ Paul is the messenger of Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_!

➤ Paul is the messenger of God the Father, who \_\_\_\_\_ Messiah from the dead!

- (3) Paul is not \_\_\_\_\_ in proclaiming the true Gospel of God’s grace to the churches of Galatia because others stand with him.

*“the brothers who are with me”*

**Key Point:** God sets us apart as His \_\_\_\_\_ in order that we might proclaim His Gospel in the power and authority of His \_\_\_\_\_.

- Paul’s greeting to the churches acknowledges that they are all \_\_\_\_\_ together in Christ for the eternal glory of God. (1:3-5)

- (1) The greeting reflects Paul’s understanding of the saving work of God as well as its \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Grace to you”*

*“and peace”*

- (2) He again highlights the unity of purpose between the Father and Son in the work of salvation:

➤ God is \_\_\_\_\_ Father because He has planned and purposed our salvation.

➤ Jesus Christ is the risen \_\_\_\_\_ who has accomplished all that was necessary for our salvation.

- (3) For our salvation and because of our sins, Christ willingly \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

*“Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins”*

- Death and the shedding of blood are associated with sin as far back as the Garden (Gen. 3:21). In the OT Law, they were specifically prescribed by God in the sacrificial system. (Lev. 16:15-16)

Heb. 9:22—Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- The emphasis here is on what was \_\_\_\_\_ by God as well as Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ of Himself.  
Phil. 2:8—And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

*This is a central truth of the Gospel that Paul \_\_\_\_\_!*

- (4) The purpose of Jesus giving Himself was in order that He might \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*“to deliver us from the present evil age”*

*“deliver”*—ἐξαίρω (exaireō)—to remove from; to deliver someone from peril or a confining circumstance

- Paul often uses “age” (aiōn) as a synonym for “world” in reference to the present period of world history and the way of life that characterizes it.

- It is described by Paul as “evil,” emphasizing both \_\_\_\_\_ towards God and a willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ Him and His Word (Eph. 5:16, 6:12,16)

- Paul understands that believers in Christ have begun to experience the benefits and blessings of the new age of the Spirit because of their union with Christ.

*The Holy Spirit has been \_\_\_\_\_ to His people (Rom. 5:5)*

*Messiah has taken the place of all \_\_\_\_\_ and authority (Col. 1:13)*

*Believers now have a new \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 3:20)*

“The past historical fact of the passion coupled with the future, full arrival of the age to come creates an overlapping, intermediate time often characterized with the paradoxical phrase “already/not yet.” Through Christ’s death and resurrection some of the eschatological blessings are already experienced by believers presently in their relationship to God and within the church, but the full and final consummation of these blessings still remains in the future.”

- Michael H. Burer

- (5) This has all been done according to the Father’s will and \_\_\_\_\_ is therefore the proper response.

**Key Point: The gospel has both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ implications because it defines who we are in Christ and transforms how we live.**

“That rescue is required makes quite clear that salvation is not seen by Paul as a human self-help program. Salvation is of God and through the action of Christ.” - Ben Witherington III

### **Paul’s Message to the Galatians**

- The Galatians should trust in the Gospel of grace Paul proclaimed to them because it came from Christ Himself!
- Although he has unique authority as an apostle, Paul is a fellow worshiper and beneficiary of God’s grace in Christ!

### **Concluding Thoughts**

1. In carrying out the \_\_\_\_\_ entrusted to us by God, we are to do so in accordance with His Word and in the power that He supplies.
2. We must never forget that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s lavish grace to us in Christ.

## Introduction: A Proper View of Authority

Authority comes from God, who is the ultimate Authority. Human authority is given by Him and is meant to be used under His Lordship and for His glory. Because of this, we should not be distrustful of it or prone to misuse it for selfish or harmful purposes. Instead, authority is to be stewarded faithfully for God’s glory and the good of others.

**Main Point: Salvation belongs to our God and so, therefore, does the message of the Gospel.**

### Galatians 1:1-5

- **Paul begins his letter to the Galatians by asserting his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ. (1:1-2)**

*“Paul”*

*“an apostle”* – One to whom authority has been delegated; a person commissioned to represent another.

“In describing himself with this word, Paul focuses upon both his role as sent from God to convey the gospel message and his authoritative role to interpret and apply that message.” - Michael H. Burer

- (1) His authority as an apostle did NOT have a human source or origin.

*“not from men”*

*“nor through man”*

- (2) Rather, its source was Christ Himself.

*“through Jesus Christ and God the Father”* → The emphasis is on unity of purpose.

➤ Paul is the messenger of Jesus, the Messiah

➤ Paul is the messenger of God the Father, who raised Messiah from the dead!

- (3) Paul is not alone in proclaiming the true Gospel of God’s grace to the churches of Galatia because others stand with him.

*“the brothers who are with me”*

**Key Point: God sets us apart as His messengers in order that we might proclaim His Gospel in the power and authority of His Word.**

- **Paul’s greeting to the churches acknowledges that they are all blessed together in Christ for the eternal glory of God. (1:3-5)**

- (1) The greeting reflects Paul’s understanding of the saving work of God as well as its results.

*“Grace to you”*

*“and peace”*

- (2) He again highlights the unity of purpose between the Father and Son in the work of salvation:

➤ God is our Father because He has planned and purposed our salvation.

➤ Jesus Christ is the risen Lord who has accomplished all that was necessary for our salvation.

- (3) For our salvation and because of our sins, Christ willingly died for us.

*“Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins”*

- Death and the shedding of blood are associated with sin as far back as the Garden (Gen. 3:21). In the OT Law, they were specifically prescribed by God in the sacrificial system. (Lev. 16:15-16)  
Heb. 9:22—Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- The emphasis here is on what was **required** by God as well as Christ's **offering** of Himself.  
Phil. 2:8—And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

***This is a central truth of the Gospel that Paul preached!***

(4) The purpose of Jesus giving Himself was in order that He might **rescue** us.

*“to deliver us from the present evil age”*

*“deliver”*—ἐξαπαρέω (exaireō)—to remove from; to deliver someone from peril or a confining circumstance

- Paul often uses “age” (aiōn) as a synonym for “world” in reference to the present period of world history and the way of life that characterizes it.
- It is described by Paul as “evil,” emphasizing both **hostility** towards God and a willingness to **disregard** Him and His Word (Eph. 5:16, 6:12,16)
- Paul understands that believers in Christ have begun to experience the benefits and blessings of the “New Age” of the Spirit because of their union with Christ.

***The Holy Spirit has been given to His people (Ezek. 36:26 → Rom. 5:5)***

***Messiah has taken the place of all rule and authority (Ezek. 34:22-24 → Col. 1:13)***

***Believers now have a new citizenship (Phil. 3:20)***

“The past historical fact of the passion coupled with the future, full arrival of the age to come creates an overlapping, intermediate time often characterized with the paradoxical phrase “already/not yet.” Through Christ’s death and resurrection some of the eschatological blessings are already experienced by believers presently in their relationship to God and within the church, but the full and final consummation of these blessings still remains in the future.”

- Michael H. Burer

(5) This has all been done according to the Father’s will and **worship** is therefore the proper response.

**Key Point: The gospel has both cosmic and practical implications because it defines who we are in Christ and transforms how we live.**

“That rescue is required makes quite clear that salvation is not seen by Paul as a human self-help program. Salvation is of God and through the action of Christ.” - Ben Witherington III

### **Paul’s Message to the Galatians**

- The Galatians should trust in the Gospel of grace Paul proclaimed to them because it came from Christ Himself!
- Although he has unique authority as an apostle, Paul is a fellow worshiper and beneficiary of God’s grace in Christ!

### **Concluding Thoughts**

1. In carrying out the vocations entrusted to us by God, we are to do so in accordance with His Word and in the power that He supplies.
2. We must never forget that we are recipients of God’s lavish grace to us in Christ.