



*November 17, 2024*

*“Listen to the Holy Spirit”*

*Sunday school at 9:30, Service at 10:30.*

*News:*

Wednesday Evenings at Alêtheia 6:30-8:00

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P46 is a codex...

The Title “towards the Galatians”

“Paul, an Apostle”

“the churches of Galatia”

Nomina Sacra...

### **Galatians 1:1–5 ~**

Here, Paul forcefully insists that he, unlike the Judaizers, was a full-fledged Apostle, supernaturally appointed by...

Let's start with why.

Why would anyone give any credibility to what Jung had to say about the Bible?

Whoever you believe indicates the foundation and the authority you accept.

For everyone, without exception, the true final authority is...

There is one thing that can be different than that... (John 14:26, etc.).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

Only by listening to, and obeying, the Holy Spirit, can a person go from being their own god, to living as a child of God.

Paul started with the statement that he was “an Apostle, not sent from men nor through human agency.” That’s two different things.

Paul was essentially saying that his ministry was through Jesus and from the Father, but by not stating it explicitly, he reinforced that the two, Jesus and the Father, were One.

God the Father Resurrected Jesus the Christ, thereby proving that what Jesus claimed, what He taught, and what He commanded, was acceptable to God.

“Grace to you and peace.” Peace comes as a result of Grace, which is an unmerited gift. To have the intended benefits of the gift one must accept it and use it.

Rescue is ἐξαιρέω (ěx-ī-řě-ō)...

Sin is ἁμαρτία (hä-mär-tē-ä), from the verb ἁμαρτάνω (hä-mär-tä-nō)...

It is the opposite of being wise (James 1:14&15).

The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord...

This Salvation is such a magnanimous and magnificent gift that it is to His eternal glory.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

P46 is a codex (meaning a book form rather than a scroll) dated to roughly 175 A.D. it was discovered near Cairo Egypt in 1930 and is presently at the University of Michigan. It is in remarkable shape, for being nearly 1,900 years old, but not perfectly pristine, so while it contains all of Paul's Letters except the Pastorals, some bits are missing.

You can look it up online and then easily read the title ΠΡΟΣ ΓΑΛΑΤΑΣ, "towards the Galatians" as well as the opening words, ΠΑΥΛΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ, "Paul, an Apostle." You can see at the end of the fourth line ἑκκλησίαις τῆς Γαλα, then at the start of the fifth line the rest of the word, τίας, making it Γαλατίας, "the churches of Galatia."

Finally, let me point out the Nomina Sacra, which means "sacred names." They are standard abbreviations that came into regular use not long before this copy was made. Here we have 4 of them, IHY for Ἰησοῦ Jesus, XPY for Χριστοῦ Christ, and then ΘΥ for θεοῦ God, twice. The final letter changes to give the reader the case of the noun. In this situation, all four are genitive, or possessive, meaning, of Jesus Christ and, of God.

This is one of more than 6,000 ancient Greek manuscripts we have of the Bible. Because the University has published online digital photos of P46, anyone can study directly from this copy of the Bible made 18 ½ centuries ago. Imagine, this was first read to a group of Christians, just like us, when Egypt, Galatia, and the whole Mediterranean, for that matter, were ruled by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, played by Richard Harris in the movie Gladiator.

Coincidentally, this statue of Marcus Aurelius was made in 175 A.D., the same time as our copy of Galatians. Now, the whole reason that I bring all this up is to help confirm for you that we know with nearly perfect certainty that what the Bible is today is what it was for the early church originally.

Every Book of the Old Testament is confirmed by existing copies made before Jesus was born. Every Book of the New Testament is confirmed by copies made well over 150 years before Christianity was even legal. Incidentally, Roman legal documents show that six people were executed in Carthage, in modern-day Tunis, Tunisia, in this same year, 175 A.D. The six, were brutally executed just for being Christians.

Galatians 1:1–5, 1Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), 2and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

That’s actually a lot to take in, so we’ll just relax, and go through it one bit at a time. Galatians starts with a standard “from” section where Paul boldly, clearly, and forcefully, insists that he, unlike the Judaizers, was a full-fledged Apostle, supernaturally appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself – personally.

Let’s start with why. Why would Paul use up 3 full lines of papyrus to make that point? Beyond that, why did he continue for a chapter and a half making the same point? In belief systems, including Christianity, it all comes down to the foundation and the authority for that foundation.

Here’s an analogy as an example that will also make its own important point. After our class last Wednesday

night, a friend brought up the reality that on the internet, and through other media, there are countless contradictory explanations about everything. Take any subject, and there are opposing, contrary, and differing statements, reports, and lengthy lessons that all seem to be authoritative, true, and correct. How does a person navigate what to believe? How can you help others who are taken in by false claims?

His specific question concerned an anti-Biblical theory regarding the Fall of Satan that was espoused by the late Carl Jung. Should a person believe Jung's account or the Biblical account? It's a question of foundation and the authority supporting that foundation.

Carl Jung was a brilliant man who had some amazing insights concerning human personality, but he was also a pantheistic worshipper of actual idols that he carved himself who based his psychoanalysis on Darwinian macroevolution.

While he was a preacher's kid, he hated his father's academic approach to the Bible and Bible-based Christianity. Carl studied philosophy, not theology. He was immoral as a husband and a doctor, having had at least one well-known affair with a patient, Jung was the

atheist Sigmund Freud's (Freud), favorite student and heir apparent, or planned successor.

Why would anyone give any credibility at all to what Jung had to say about the Bible, Judaism, or Christianity? While he was an authority on certain topics, giving the reason for Satan's Fall, isn't one of them.

In that same vein... In discussing the shape of the earth, here's a short video clip of a flat earther dude named Watsun...

He believes the earth to be flat. If that's true, then why do we pilots always fly great circle courses? The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. If the earth was flat, we would use basic geometry, but if it is spherical we would use non-Euclidean geometry, which is precisely what we do.

There are apps that allow you to track airplanes. If the earth is flat, why the deception? Who gains? Anyone who thinks that all pilots fly airplanes much, much, farther than they need to fly, just to keep up the ruse, hasn't got a clue about the greediness of airlines and the miserliness of aircraft owners.

Now, this was just for fun, but it makes the point... Whoever you believe indicates the foundation and the authority you accept. As to why people believe Jung and Watsun, come to Sunday school next week and ask.

Let's bring it to Christianity as we have it today. In Roman Catholicism the Church is the authority. The Church, the institution, and the Pope at its head, is the final authority for all theology, doctrines, and practices in Catholicism. That foundation is the accepted dogma – the Catholic Catechism and the authority for it is the institution creating and sustaining it.

That overrules the Bible, tradition, the personal revelation of the Holy Spirit, society, culture, opinions, feelings, and anything else. The authority for that foundation stems from the belief that Jesus put Peter in charge of Christianity as the first pope and that from him there is an unbroken line of succession through to the present pope. For Catholic doctrine, the Pope is infallible, not the Bible.

Eastern Orthodoxy's authority is Apostolic tradition, their foundation is the traditions handed down over the



millennia. Protestantism was a repudiation of both tradition and the Church in favor of the Bible. God inspired the Scriptures and so the Bible is the foundation for Christianity and God Himself through human authors is the authority.

There have been other groups appealing to different foundations including social constructs, Spiritual revelations, individual mysticism and many others, but my point remains... What you believe about anything, including Christianity, has a foundation good or bad, coherent or muddled, true or false, that is accepted by you because you are persuaded by the authority behind it and so it become authoritative for you.

For everyone, without exception, the true final authority is themselves. I believe eating meat is good one day and the next day, I change my mind. I rationalize the change of belief by changing the foundation I accept because I'm persuaded by a different authority, but the truth is that I am the one who determines for me, which authority is to be believed, and I then go with the foundation supported by that authority... Until I don't.

Bottom line, I am the arbiter of truth for myself – I am my own final authority as to whether I will submit to

Catholicism, or Orthodoxy, or Protestantism, or Atheism, or whatever. I am my own god. It is all just human subjective opinion. That was Protagoras' point. Reality is in the eye of the beholder.

There is one thing that can be different than that... If I believe Salvifically in the Name of Jesus, I receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Breath of God now informs my human thinking to the degree that I grant access to Him, by listening and by obeying. As a Spirit-led Christian, my true final authority becomes less me and more Him. My belief becomes less human subjective opinion and more Truth from the Mouth of God the Father, made intelligible to me by the Breath of God the Father.

That's what Jesus meant when He said in John 14:26, "the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things...". It isn't that the Holy Spirit downloads theology into your brain... It is that when you listen to the Holy Spirit and then obey what He reveals, your authority has changed from you to Him... To the degree that you allow the Spirit to drive. Your foundation changes from your opinions about the Bible to what God actually said in the Bible... Again, to the degree that you obey.

You go from being a typical human being, Christian or otherwise, running around as their own god, pretending that they're not, to being a maturing Christian led by Jesus into actual Truth.

means

Paul needed the Galatians to follow Christ into the Truth, but in order to do that, he had to first convince them to reject the foundation taught to them by the Judaizers and instead return to the foundation that he had laid and that they had first believed. In order to do that, he had to get the Galatians to accept his authority as superior to that of the Jerusalem-based Judaizers.

Those Judaizers who had persuaded the Galatians to adopt their legalism no doubt billed themselves as emissaries from the mother church and the actual hand-selected Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were the authorized representatives of Pope Peter, James the Great, and the Beloved John. They were friends of Mary the mother of Jesus and her other children including her son James, who, by this point, was essentially the Bishop of Jerusalem and the de facto leader of the entire Christian church. They had some credentials, they had a serious résumé, affirming their obvious authority.

In contrast, who was this character, Paul? Who was he in comparison to them? He had persecuted the church and had never been part of the ministry of Jesus except as an opponent. Paul hadn't been sent by the church in Jerusalem – he'd been sent from Antioch. What did he know? What was his authority and why should they listen to him over the seemingly much more legitimate Judaizers?

Paul started with the statement that he was “an Apostle, not sent from men nor through human agency.” That's two different things.

By the phrase “not sent from men,” Paul means that he was not an Apostle sent out as an ambassador to establish new beachheads for Christianity because the church in Damascus, or Jerusalem, or Tarsus, or Antioch, ordained him as such.

Unlike the Judaizers, Paul wasn't an emissary of the Apostles, nor was he the representative of the governing Elders, nor was he the ambassador of the Jerusalem church. Paul was “not sent from men.”

By the phrase “nor through human agency” Paul means that he was not an Apostle because someone mentored him as to be an Apostle. He didn’t go to Apostle school where some professor took him under his wing. Paul didn’t attend a Christian seminary run by Ananias in Damascus, or Peter in Jerusalem, or Barnabas in Antioch. In verse 12, Paul wrote that he was not taught the Gospel by any man. He was not an Apostle “through human agency”

Now, in formal speaking or writing, when a person creates two things and then follows that by two more things, those things correlate and in ancient times the usually correlated in a chiastic fashion. The Greek letter Chi is an “X” shape indicating a progression in and then back out.

For example, I could say that “I was not sent from the Catholic church, nor through Catholic Seminary training, but through Protestant Seminary training and from God.” My point is that we expect the two sides of the grammatical equation to match and traditionally to invert chiastically.

What the Galatians would have expected in this case was “an Apostle not sent from men nor through human

agency, but through the agency of Jesus Christ and from God the Father.” If you look carefully, that’s not what Paul did. By doing it the way Paul did it, he was essentially saying that his ministry was through Jesus and from the Father, but by not stating it explicitly, he reinforced that the two, Jesus and the Father, were One.

While the two were not identically interchangeable they were nonetheless so perfectly unified that Paul wouldn’t say that he was from one and through the other, but that he was from and through both. It’s a subtle and cool way of confirming the Trinity.

Here's another... It was the Father Who raised Jesus from the dead. In Acts 2:32 it was God, in John, it was Jesus Himself. In Romans, it was the Holy Spirit. Who raised Jesus? It was the Godhead, three in One. The Bible will state one or the other to emphasize a particular aspect.

Here, Paul states that it was God the Father because he was emphasizing that the easily recognized God of Judaism, was the very One Who Resurrected Jesus the Christ, thereby proving that what Jesus claimed about His Own divinity, what He taught, about Believing

in Him for eternal Salvation, and what He commanded, defining the Christian life, was acceptable to God.

Jesus repeatedly claimed to be One with God the Father as the Eternal Word of God, as the One and Only Way to God the Father, and as the Lord endorsed as such by God the Father. Jesus as God, Savior, and Lord. There is no way that God would raise Him from the dead if that wasn't True and everyone knows that only God can Resurrect someone three days dead.

Paul then added to his intro that while he wasn't a puppet of any group or beholdng to any man, he was nonetheless a brother who had many brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul was the opposite of a lone wolf Christian.

The "To" section is the initial intended recipients. All the churches in the Roman Province of Galatia and its environs. Notice that it is specifically intended for Christian people, but not as individual solo actors. The church families in Galatia.

Verse 3, "Grace to you and peace," this is quite literally peace with God because of His Grace extended to you. Grace is unmerited kindness, meaning that it is

absolutely impossible to earn in any way or to any degree. It is a gift given freely and without any conditions at all. Now, as I've pointed out many times, to have the intended benefits of the gift one must accept it for what it actually is and use it in that way.

Both of those realities create parameters, limits, or we could say, boundaries. There are parameters inherent in accepting the gift and certainly within the use of the gift... The greatest benefit is the new parameter of peace with God. Sin, the very thing that creates the conflict is wiped away and peace reigns.

“Grace to you and peace,” is equally “from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Then chiastically Paul will say something about the second One named, just as he did when the order was reversed in verse 2. There it was “Jesus Christ” first and then the “God the Father” second. Paul then added something about God the Father raising Jesus. Here it is Jesus Who Paul puts second and so he elaborates on Him voluntarily giving Himself over to His violent death that necessitated His Resurrection.

The purpose of Jesus giving Himself over to that brutal execution on a Cross of Crucifixion was to provide



rescue for Believers which was God the Father's Will which was demonstrated by Him raising Jesus from the dead.

How does the rescue work? What is the rescue?

Rescue is ἔξαιρέω (ěx-ī-rě-ō), meaning to carry, or bear, out. The idea is that Jesus will pluck you out of the mire that you are drowning in and carry, or bear, you out of that hell.

What is the mire? The mire is this present evil age of sin and death. Jesus gave Himself; He handed Himself over to vile, petty, despicable, mankind and allowed us to mock, torture, crush, and murder Him to conquer sin, death, and the grave, forevermore.

Sin is ἁμαρτία (hä-mär-tē-ä), from the verb ἁμαρτάνω (hä-mär-tä-nō). The word family occurs well over 600 times in the Bible. Maybe it is a big deal after all. Because it's a vital concept to Judaism and Christianity there is a lot of misinformation about it out there.

The verb literally means to miss, or to fall short. The typical example is you shoot an arrow at a target and miss the bullseye. Many of you have heard it described as "missing the mark." I hate that. It gives us the idea

that we're trying to hit the mark and due to a shift in the wind, or atmospheric pressure fluctuations, or defective arrow fletching we just happened to miss a bit.

Going back, almost 3,000 years ago, the term was used metaphorically as an intellectual missing of the target or goal. It was a cognitive shortcoming. It was incorrect thinking, or an erroneous understanding. Simply put, it was a failure to correctly assess, rationally reason out, and properly judge the situation.

The term was used extensively by ancient philosophers like Homer in both the Iliad and the Odessey, as the opposite of being wise.

Isn't that a bit strange? Well, not at all, because wrong thinking about God and in particular wrong thinking about God in relation to mankind, and especially to yourself, always leads to wrongdoing – to sin.

All sin starts between your ears. James 1:14&15, "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." Death is the direct result of sin and sin is born as we allow our desire to be conceived. All that

you need to do to sin is entertain your selfish others-sacrificing thoughts.

What is the “stinkin’ thinkin’” that constitutes sin? Again, it is a fundamental misapprehension concerning Who God is and who you are in comparison. It’s a failure to fear God. What does that mean to fear God – the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord... What does that mean? A lack of fear in you and by you is you assuming that God is too dumb, too unaware, too uninterested, too agreeable, or too senile, to care about your shenanigans... Your distrusting disobedience.

Allow the Holy Spirit to get your thinking right and you will sin far less egregiously.

Now, this Salvation, or Rescue, is such a magnanimous, magnificent, self-sacrifice on God’s part made for the sole benefit of entirely unworthy creatures, that it is to His eternal glory. Amen.