



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Gospel That Sets Us Free

Passage: Galatians 1:1-5

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Many Christians know they have been saved by grace, yet still live as though God's love depends upon their spiritual performance. They have received the gospel but have not fully learned to live in the freedom it provides. Galatians is a powerful declaration that salvation is not about what we do for God, but about what Christ has already done for us. Nothing can be added to His finished work because it is finished. As Paul opens this letter, he begins by reminding us who Jesus is, what He has done, and why that changes everything. So let's begin where Paul begins and discover the gospel that sets us free.

I. The Gospel Comes From God (Verses 1-2)

The moment you add anything to the finished work of Jesus Christ, you have changed the gospel. A gospel with additions is no longer the gospel.

Because the gospel came from God, it stands complete, perfect, and sufficient. Our responsibility is not to edit it. Our responsibility is to believe it.

The resurrection is God's declaration that Christ's sacrifice was accepted.



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Our hope rests upon the God who planned redemption, the Son who accomplished redemption, and the resurrection that proved redemption was complete.

II. The Gospel Was Accomplished by Christ (Verses 2-4a)

You will never experience the peace of God until you first receive the grace of God.

On the cross, Jesus took our place. He bore our guilt. He suffered the wrath that belonged to us so that we could stand forgiven before a holy God.

Before Christ, we were striving to earn a relationship with God. In Christ, we serve from a relationship that has already been secured.

Whenever we lose sight of what Christ has accomplished, we'll inevitably begin trusting in what we can accomplish. The moment that happens, we've exchanged the freedom of the gospel for the bondage of religion.

III. The Gospel is All for God's Glory (Verses 4b-5)

Before there was ever a sinner to save, there was a God who had already purposed to save sinners.

Salvation belongs to God from beginning to end. He planned it. Christ accomplished it. The Holy Spirit applies it. Every part of redemption rests upon God's faithfulness rather than ours.

False religion exalts man. It causes people to compare themselves with others and measure their own performance. The true gospel exalts Christ.

The more clearly we see the gospel, the less we'll trust ourselves, and the more we'll love our Savior.



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Conclusion: Christ has already purchased our freedom. The debt has been paid, the chains have been broken, and the work is finished. If you've never trusted Christ, stop trying to earn what He freely offers by grace. And if you know Christ, ask yourself: Am I living like someone who has been set free? As we journey through Galatians, let's learn to rest in Christ's finished work and live in the freedom He has already provided.



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