THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
"The Glory of God"
Gal. 1:1-5

Introduction

1. The liberty of the sons of God is once again falling into the bondage of legalism. Great need for a protest against this!

2. Real issue: law versus grace. This is heightened today. He had preached grace to them originally (Acts 13:38).

3. Error made fast headway. Why? Four reasons: a) They seemed to have Scripture on their side. b) Believers had a yearning for holiness. c) False teachers were from Jerusalem. d) Matter of authority was raised.

4. BUT the GLORY of God was at stake. Hence, Paul defends the situation and does it by presenting three matters of attack:

1. Paul's APOSTLESHIP

If it can be proved that Paul is not an established witness of God, then it is a matter of little consequence that he should be preaching! What are the facts? He IS a true messenger of God. This is supported:

a. Negatively.

1) Not from men. The preposition here denotes source of authority.

2) Not thru men. The preposition here denotes channel of authority.

b. Positively.

The mediate authority for his apostleship is Jesus Christ AND God the Father. Only one preposition is used for both proper nouns here. The mention of the resurrection is to show that Paul was commissioned by an exalted Saviour (I Cor. 9:1; 15:8).

2. Paul's FELLOWSHIP

Paul sustains a three-fold relationship:

a. Personally-with other believers.

He mentions "all the brethren" who are with him. Paul was not a lone wolf in his position.

b. Directly--with the churches.

He writes as one who really had a point to make with friends. These were the churches in north Galatia (cf. Acts 13, 14).

c. Spiritually--with the Lord.

He wrote to them as one who knew the grace of God and the peace which flows from that grace. He wanted them to share it!

3. Paul's RELATIONSHIP.

Paul lays down herein the second of two major issues. The first one concerned his authority; the second deals with a whole new administration (dispensation)! The message of Paul to the Galatians was a true relationship to the purpose of God. This is undergirded by:

a. The death of Christ.

The death of our Lord was for sin. The Greek preposition signifies the effect of His death. Blessed be God. How unique!

b. The deliverance of believers.

The message of Paul involves holiness also. Deliverance from a transitory evil world is marvelous. This is the immediate purpose of God for the believer in the current scene.

c. The determination of God the Father.

The eternal decree of God the Father is at stake. Paul's message is not an innovation of a defunct Pharisee. God has ordered the present message in agreement with His everlasting counsels.

Conclusion. To follow Paul's argument is to give God the glory (1:5). To reject it, is to withhold from Him that which is His right.