BOOK OF GALATIANS
"Liberty in Christ"
Galatians 1:5

Introduction

1. Every State celebrates the adoption on July 4, 1776 of the Declaration of Independence which declared our separation from Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson drew up the Declaration after the idea was proposed to the Congress by Richard Lee and seconded by John Adams.

2. It was John Adams, in a letter to his wife, who said the day should be solemnized with pomp, parade, guns, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to another. So it has been.

3. With this historical brief comment about our political deliverance from England, is there any spiritual deliverance indicated in Scripture? Positively yes! The Bible clearly declares that the Lord Jesus Christ has made a marvelous deliverance for anyone who will believe on Him. Study it:

1. The PERSON Who Did It

The articular participle (τοῦ δόντος tou dontos) has an antecedent which is Jesus Christ (v. 4). "Jesus" means Saviour while "Christ" means "Messiah" or "Anointed One." He is the impeccable Son of God. The Bible leaves no doubt about His sinless perfection. a. He knew (γνόντα gnonta) no sin (2 Cor. 5:21). b. He did (ἐποίησεν epoiesen) no sin (1 Pet. 2:22). c. He had (χωρίσ choris) no sin (Heb. 4:15). d. He was forever apart from sin (κεχωρισμένος kechorismenos). He is the spotless Lamb of God (cf. Ex. 12:5; John 1:29).

2. The PROCEDURE by Which He Did It

a. Actively

Here is the hub of the work of our Lord Jesus. Forthrightly the Text of the Word affirms that He gave (δόντος dontos, aorist participle). Therefore, this is a once for all fact of history (cf. Heb. 10:11, 12).

b. Personally

But there is more. Christ gave Himself (ἑαυτόν heauton). Many are the passages which can be marshaled to support this. Critical are these: John 10:17, 18; 1 Tim. 2:6; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24. This "self" included His life (Mt. 20:28), His flesh (Jn. 6:51), and His body (Lk. 22:19).

c. Substitutionally

There is controversy over the Greek preposition translated "for" our sins. However, no matter which one is most accurate, the substitutionary death of our Lord and His complete work at Calvary is meant. Jesus died a once-for-all vicarious death. Hallelujah (Jn. 19:30; 1 Cor. 15:3).

3. The PURPOSE for Which He Did It

a. Verbally

Now here is the end for which Christ did what is stated. It was all for an immediate purpose i.e. a real emancipation. Talk about an Independence celebration, this is it. The aorist verb (ἐχέληται exeletai) denotes a once for all time act. Surely this means security for eternity. The strength of the verb is gained from its usage (cf. Mt. 5:29; Acts 7:10, 34; 23:22; 26:17). What a goal reached.

b. Practically

Jesus' deliverance is out of (ἐκ ek) the present (perfect participle, ἐνεστῶτος enestwtos) evil (root for pornography) world (actually "age" αἰῶνας aiwnas). Now that is a deliverance worth talking about. The present moral (immoral!) age characteristics or present evil state of things is in view. All of this has a wisdom (1 Cor. 2:6) , a god (2 Cor. 4:4), and a course (Eph. 2:2). Believers are not to be conformed to it (Ro. 12:2) because they have been delivered from it (here)!

4. The PRECEPT – According to Which He Did It

a. Its Standard

The preposition "according to" (κατὰ kata) connotes that the thoughts of the text are in perfect harmony with the will of God. There is no room here for works or personal merit. All is what an infinite God has designed and totally satisfies Him. The plan of deliverance as stated is not will-of-the-wisp, but the delight of an omniscient (all knowing) omnipotent (all powerful) God.

b. Its Relationship

What a blessing to read "and our Father." Hence, what is written about deliverance is not from an arbitrary or capricious God, but a loving "Father." This noun and the possessive "our" adds an empathy of unusual proportion to the Truth (cf. Psa. 103:13; Luke 15:17-31).

Conclusion

Read, review, and revise what the text says. Deliverance from this present evil age is factual and should become actual. This is possible when one is effectually controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and walking by means of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16).