

Riverview Baptist Church
Sunday School Teaching Plan
September 27, 2015
Galatians 1:3-5
“A Blessing from God!”

Memory Verse

Galatians 1:3-5 NIV - *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Big Idea:

Sermon Scripture: The sermon will be the second in a series of expository sermons on Galatians. Galatians 1:3-5 will be studied in both Sunday School and in worship today. Paul’s introduction to this letter provides us with a reminder of both his own calling into ministry as an Apostle and the redemptive work of Jesus on our behalf. In thinking of this, Paul is moved to praise God for His goodness!

Sunday School Scripture: Galatians 1:3-5

Sunday School Title: “A Blessing from God”

ESS: The redeeming work of Jesus results in grace, peace, rescue for mankind and glory forever to God!

Preparation:

Think of a time when you were rescued from danger; or an instance from someone else’s life; or a popular movie. The point is to connect to the emotions of danger and the affections that come with being saved from it!

Presentation:

How does it feel to go from being “at risk” to rescue?

This morning we are talking about the truth that we are blessed because Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us, give us peace and grace, and this should cause us to glorify God at all times!

READ: *Galatians 1:3-5 (read from more than one version/translation if possible)*

Remember that this is a customary opening (sender, addressee, greeting) to a Greek Letter. Paul’s writings in the New Testament often follow part or all of this pattern. Today we continue to examine Paul’s opening greeting in the Letter to the Galatians.

1. What do Grace and Peace mean? Verse 3

- a) Grace: “good will, loving-kindness, favor”, “used of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues”
- b) Peace: “peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord, security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous), the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is”.

2. Where do they come from? Verse 3

- a) They come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) What is the significance of that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are mentioned together in this greeting? Support for Trinitarian belief that Jesus is God. The fact that both grace and peace come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ show their unity!
- c) What do the titles Lord, and Christ mean when added to the name of Jesus? Lord, means that he is the one “to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord” it is also “is a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master”. Christ means, “anointed”, and is a reference to the Hebrew concept of Messiah, an anointed rescuer of Israel. When taken together these descriptive titles illuminate the truth that although Jesus was a man of flesh, he was not just like other men. He was the God-Man. He is God!

3. How did God arrange for us to have grace and peace? Verse

- a) He gave himself for our sins! 1 Peter 3:18
- b) Why was this necessary? Romans 3:20-28 We cannot rescue ourselves! How did this happen? Romans 3:25, 1 John 2:2

Refer to this Hymn by Fanny Crosby written around 1875. “To God be the Glory”¹

Verse 1

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Verse 2

Perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Chorus

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

4. Why did Jesus “give himself for us”? verse 4

- a) Rescue us from the present evil age! Because of our sins, we needed someone else to rescue us. The word rescue here means to “pluck out, draw out, i.e. root out, to choose out (for one’s self), select, one person from many.” Jesus’ ministry is the means by which God has selected you out from destruction! You have been spared in Christ!
- b) According to the will of our God and Father! Although Jesus agonized over His suffering and death in prayer to the Father in the Gethsemane garden, His will and the will of the Father are one. So therefore, Jesus’ work of suffering and the Father’s work are one. It is wrong for us to see the cross only as a Father

¹ Blueletter Bible Hymnal

killing his boy for the sake of another. It is right to see the cross as the self-sacrificing love of God exhibited at great expense to God Himself.

5. How should we respond? Verse 5

- a) Praise God upon every thought of it! Every time we think of the ministry of Jesus we should be led thoughts of the glorious greatness of God. The self-sacrificing ministry of Jesus was for the Glory of God in agreement with His will. This complete unity of God in expressing His grace and peace for us and extending them toward us at His own expense is so extravagant that Paul is moved to praise! Because of God's intrinsic glory. Glory is given to God because God is glorious!!!
- b) Praise him with words! Glory cannot be contained. So we should not contain the glory of God only within our hearts. We should allow God's glory to move us to speak about Him in glorious ways.
- c) Praise him with music! The Doxology, **doxology** (Greek: δοξολογία, from δόξα, doxa, "glory" and -λογία, -logia, "saying") is a short hymn of praises to God in various forms of Christian worship.² We often sing a doxology written by Thomas Ken in 1674, which says, "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."
- d) Praise Him without end, forever and ever!
- e) Amen! Let it be! This word added to a song, prayer, or statement of praise is and verbal agreement. It is a Hebrew word brought over into Greek and eventually into English. It means, let it happen!

What other hymns or songs do we sing that express praise to God for what He has done for us!

As we prepare to apply this lesson consider the level of God's blessings on your life and the expense to Himself for those blessings. Does our level of praise match the level of God's worthiness of praise? If not, why not? What can we do to raise our praise?

Apply:

- **Receive Jesus as your savior and Lord personally today, praise Him by telling other about it!**
- **Say an appropriate "AMEN!" today in worship!**
- **Constantly seek ways to praise Jesus for your salvation. Don't be a silent saint.**
- **Write out a journal entry about the attributes of God that you have experienced personally!**

NOTE!!! All definitions unless otherwise noted are from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

² Wikipedia Dictionary.