

# **"AUTHORITY TO PRESENT THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL"**

## **GALATIANS 1:1-5**

### **I. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CUSTOMIZED THE STANDARD OPENINGS OF NEW TESTAMENT EPISTOLARY LITERATURE (1:1-2)**

#### **A. The Sender: Paul Emphasizes His Primary Credential Qualifying Him To Present The Truth Of The Gospel**

##### **1. He Employs A Term That Has Been Restricted In Its Usage To Only a Few Certain Men**

- a. Men "Commissioned" For A Specific Purpose
- b. A Few Instances Of Men Commissioned By Churches

- i. Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25)
- ii. Andronicus & Junia (Romans 16:7)

- iii. Barnabas (Acts 14:4)

- c. Twelve Designated To Be With Christ

- i. Saul Of Tarsus
- ii. Mathias
- iii. Household Of God Built Upon The Foundation They Laid (Ephesians 2:20)

- iv. Witnesses To The Resurrected Christ (Acts 1:21-22; 2:32; 3:15; I Cor. 9:1)

##### **2. He Employs A Term Which Is Qualified Very Carefully**

- a. Denial Of Any Human Authorization
- b. Affirmation Of The Authorization Of The Risen Christ

- c. Unanimous Confirmation Regarding Paul's Apostolic Authority By The Brethren Who Were With Him At The Time Of The Writing (Gal. 1:2)
- B. The Recipients: "The Churches Of Galatia" (1:2)
  - 1. North Galatian Theory
  - 2. South Galatian Theory

**II. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CUSTOMIZED THE GREETING, IN THIS CASE, TO PRESENT THE ESSENCE OF EVERYTHING THAT WILL FOLLOW IN THIS EPISTLE (1:3-5)**

- A. The Foundation Of That Essence, Unlike That Of The False Brethren, Is Seen In God's Apostle Bringing Them To Mind Of The "Grace" And "Peace" That Is There's (1:3)
- B. The Basis Upon Which God Could Bestow Such Favor Is The Substitutionary Work Of Christ (1:4a)
- C. The Purpose For Which He Agreed To Such A Stupendous Sacrifice (1:4b)
- D. The Reason For Carrying Out Such An Objective: The Glory Of God (1:5)