

# ***IT'S ALL GRACE***

**Scripture:** Galatians 1:1-5  
(04-19-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

Galatians was written to young churches that Paul had planted during his first missionary journey (Acts 13-14). It is addressed to churches in Galatia (southern Turkey today) that were just beginning to grow. Soon after a group of people called the Judaizers came. These false teachers were saying that in order to be saved, you had to believe in Christ plus you had to basically become a Jew.

In his letter, Paul reminds believers that our salvation is a "done deal" accomplished by God, not a "do list" for us to complete. Galatians was written specifically to counter legalism and to address the centrality of grace in the church: Grace is from God alone. Grace is through Christ alone. Grace is for God's glory alone.

As we study Galatians, we should begin to see more clearly what grace is, to be saturated with it, and to know when it is being taught accurately. When we hear a false gospel, we should be discerning enough to recognize it. This is exactly what the Galatian church then, and our church now, may be in danger of missing.

## **GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)**

1. Compare to other introductions to Paul's letters, do you find this one to be quite 'chilly' or 'red-hot'? How does Paul assert his authority (v. 1)? What is happening to these churches which Paul himself had started (Acts 13-15)?
2. Which elements of the gospel does Paul stress? Why? Otherwise, what might happen due to a distorted gospel?
3. Why is it important to be clear about the origin of the gospel, whether from God or from man? Why is the fact that the Father initiated salvation important for understanding of grace?
4. In what ways do we add to the gospel? What are some "Jesus + something else" messages taught today?