



The Rescue Galatians 1:1-5

Last week, Ted gave an overview of the Paul's letter to the Galatians and cast the vision for the Word Project. This week Ted dug into the first five verses of Paul's letter. We have lots of great material to talk about, and there are ample opportunities to get into real life application. Let's dig in ...

Getting Started

Begin your group by reading this week's passage and having one or two group member share their experiences of spending daily time with Galatians. Pair everyone in the group into same-sex encouragement partners. Plan for everyone to contact their partner via email or phone at least once each week for the purpose of encouraging one another and sharing personal experiences with the Word Project.

Before you get into the actual study, discuss the following quote from Jerry Bridges.

The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history. Yet ... thousands of professing Christians live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing the joy of living it.

You should have read the passage in entirety already. Reread the first two verses.

We trust the gospel because of its source. verses 1-2

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| Who is the letter from? | How does the author refer to himself? | Why does he express himself this way? |
| What does he reveal about himself and the situation to which he is writing? | Who is he writing to? | |
| Where is Paul's authority from? | Why does he emphasize this? | What is the main point of these verses? |

We build our identities around the realities of grace and peace. verse 3

- What significance lies behind Paul's choice of the words "grace" and "peace" in his opening?
- What do these two words point toward? How do they set up what Paul will talk about in this letter?
- What is our salvation built upon? What are the results of our salvation?
- How can our self-concept, our identities change in light of understanding these realities?

We grow in Christ as we understand that ... verses 4-5

We have been rescued

1. **by the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus**
2. **so that we could enjoy the future now**
on the basis of justification :: through sanctification :: looking forward to glorification
3. **based upon the gracious will of God**

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| What have we been rescued from? | What does this mean for us on a daily basis? |
| Define and distinguish the three phases of a believer's life. | How does this help you understand your faith? |
| How have you thought about your faith in the past? | How does this change your thinking? |
| Discuss Ted's illustration of the ship at sea ... | How do you see your life in light of this analogy? |
| What do you need to change about how you think about how you live in light of this discussion? | |

Application

Make it a group goal to have each group member come up with a specific application from the text.

Reflection Questions

- Do you believe that you are in need of rescue?
- Do you live with a sense of "rescue" as the defining plot line in your story?

Prayer

Group members should have an application-specific item as their first prayer request
Please pray for everyone marriages within your group and the church. Pray for each group member's OneReach person.
Pray for the staff and leadership of the church. Pray for those new to our church and looking to get plugged in.