

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I am reading from the **Book of Galatians**. I am starting to read in **verse 4 of chapter 1** speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Who gave (yielded) Himself up [to atone] for our sins [and to save and to sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father —

You know, you think things are bad? Well, I have news for you. You probably don't realize how bad they really are! You think this country should be doing something or that government should be doing something and, after all, this isn't right. We are bringing in this perfect system, and they have messed it up! No. We are told clearly from the Word of God that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only One who can individually ***rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order***. The god of this world, - spelled with a small *g* - Satan, has been conniving to bring things about so that he might be number one and acknowledged and worshiped. That is what his goal is, because he hates the living God. He does awful things and he loves to point to the Lord as if He did it! No. We know who our enemy is: it is Satan. But let us understand that Jesus went to the Cross and yielded - He ***gave (yielded) Himself up. . . to save us from our sins***

. . . Isn't this awesome?

You know, there is a wonderful aspect to this. When Paul was chosen of God as an apostle, he did not give credentials and speak about who he was and what his background was, but he claimed everything that happened as happening from the Lord Himself. Paul's authority was not of man. In other words, the idea of that in the Greek is that it was not from man. So many of us feel, "I have to be number one. It is my authority. People are going to notice me." No. It came, as is clearly shown in the opening verse of this chapter, through ***Jesus Christ and the Father who raised Him from the dead***. When He did that, He acted on our behalf.

You know that word, ***peace***, and we thought about it yesterday, means *shalom* for the Jewish people, and also for the Greek people. It is *God's unmerited favor*. This grace and peace produces a work in our life. What happens is that it means there is an invested authority that comes right from the Lord. This authority was upon Paul. Paul didn't go and say, "Well, how does everybody else think about this? I really have to be one like them, because, after all, I might lose my job! And where is my support going to come from? I am going to try and go along with them and put up with them and try to put on this nice smile. Then, somehow it will all work out." We can be grateful in this generation that Paul knew what it was to stand in the authority of the

Lord Jesus Christ. He took himself up, several years after he had been saved, to go and speak with those who already knew the Lord, but were adding to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. There were some people who had come in and said, “Well, you know, that is all very well, but you need something else as well. You see, you need that little bit of the law. because we go right back and we are speaking about what was given to Abraham. So it is necessary to bring in circumcision. We must add this.” Right down through the ages, there have always been those who try to add something to you.

I can say, as a young Christian when I first came to know the Lord Jesus, the thing that overwhelmed me was that everybody was so busy trying to add to what I had. It seemed as if they wanted to have me not only look right, but to go through all the situations they had gone through and to believe God to do this, that, and the other. None of it was what God’s Spirit was doing in my life. They were just adding. They were trying to be legalistic and they were perverting the Gospel. “Well,” you say, “that is a strong word.” Perversion is a strong word. But they perverted the Gospel. This is what Paul, in the authority of Jesus Christ, stood up against, because liberty was being taken from those who came into Christ. It is so easy that we had a liberty in Christ. We had this awesome relationship. We could speak to Him. We felt Him. There was opposition, difficulty, the family did not understand, the job was on the line, but we had Christ and the Word

of God was alive. But without realizing, we started to add. We took on something and we felt, "Well, that looks rather good. It puts on an air of rightness here. We are different from those people." And, before we knew it, we lost our liberty!

What about you? What about your liberty in Christ Jesus? Are you able to . . . **(ascribe to Him) all the glory through all the ages of the ages, and the eternities of the eternities**, as described in **verse 5**? Are you able to come and praise Him for His plan and purpose? Or are you bound? Return to the place that it is Jesus only with all glory to His holy Name and His heavenly Father, and, by His Spirit, worship and adore this One, Three in One, our Lord God Almighty.

Amen.