



Pastor Doug Wilson · BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
The Third Week of a New Year! · January 17, 2021

GALATIANS 1 (TNIV)

¹Paul, an apostle — sent not with a **human** commission nor by **human** authority, but by **JESUS CHRIST** and **God the Father**, who **raised him from the dead** — ²and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

³**GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU** from God our Father & **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that **THE GOSPEL** I preached is not of **human** origin. ¹²I did not receive it from any **human** source, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by REVELATION from Jesus Christ.**

¹³For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I **persecuted** the church of God and tried to **destroy** it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

¹⁵But when **God**, who **1** set me apart from birth and **2** CALLED ME BY HIS GRACE, **3** was pleased ¹⁶to REVEAL his Son in me **4** so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any **human** being. ¹⁷I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

²¹Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²²I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are **IN CHRIST**. ²³They only heard the report: “The man who formerly **persecuted** us is now **preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.**” ²⁴And they praised God because of me.

People praised _____ because of _____...
and they did that because of what _____ had done for _____!

1. “God..._____ ME APART from my mother’s womb” (v. 15a)

PSALM 139:13-15 (NIV)

“ For **you created my inmost being;**

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

“ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

“ **My frame was not hidden from you**

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 (NLTse)

EVEN BEFORE HE MADE THE WORLD,

God loved us and **CHOSE** us in Christ

to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

“ God decided in advance to **adopt** us into his own family
by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

This is what he wanted to do, and **it gave him great pleasure.**

2. “God..._____ ME by his ‘abundant generosity’ ” (v. 15b)

ISAIAH 49 (TNIV)

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD CALLED me;

from my birth he has made mention of my name.

And now the LORD says—

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant

to bring Jacob back to him

and gather Israel to himself,

for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD

and my God has been my strength—

he says: “It is too small a thing for you **to be my servant**

to restore the tribes of Jacob

and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

JEREMIAH 1(TNIV)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

before you were born I set you apart;

I APPOINTED you as a prophet to the nations.” [LXX *ethnē*, as in GAL. 1:16]

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’”

You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. **See, today I APPOINT you over nations** and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

GALATIANS 1:6 (TNIV)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting
the one **who CALLED you BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST...**

3. "God...was _____ to _____ his son in me" (15c-16a)

a. "to **REVEAL** his son in me" — **this is the _____ God takes!**

GALATIANS 2:20 (TNIV)

I have been crucified with Christ
and **I NO LONGER LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.**

The life I now live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 4:6 (TNIV)

Because you are his sons,
GOD SENT THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS,
the Spirit who calls out, "ABBA, Father."

GALATIANS 4:19 (TNIV)

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth
UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU...

b. "God...was **PLEASED**" — **and this is the _____ God feels about it!**

GOD'S PLEASURE IN HIS SON — AT HIS BAPTISM

MATTHEW 3:16-17 (TNIV)

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. **At that moment heaven was opened,** and **he saw the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting on him. **And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASED."**

AT A MOMENT OF FRAGILITY & VULNERABILITY IN MINISTRY

MATTHEW 12:14-21 (TNIV)

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

AWARE OF THIS, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him.

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
THE ONE I LOVE, IN WHOM I DELIGHT;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations." [ISAIAH 42:1-4]

AT HIS TRANSFIGURATION

MATTHEW 17:5 (TNIV)

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, & a voice from the cloud said, **"This is my Son, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASED. LISTEN TO HIM!"**

4. God...did all this "so that I might ' _____ ' him to others" (16b)

5. And because God did all this...people "praised God because of _____"! (24)