

# **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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## **PAUL, THE APOSTLE OF GRACE THE SUMMER OF FREEDOM SERIES**

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**July 3, 2022**

**TEXT: GALATIANS 1:1-10**

**Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), 2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:**

**3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.**

**6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.**

INTRODUCTION: I sensed the Lord say to me right before Easter that we are entering into an epic or historic time of social transformation. On June 24, I was in Korea. I came back to my room from speaking and ministering; it was 11:07 PM Korea time. When I went online to check my email, several news magazines that I subscribe to came on with a special alert that the Supreme Court was about to make the announcement on the *Dobbs* case. Soon the news announced that *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by a 6-3 majority. Like most of you, I was elated and wept tears of joy and got down on my knees to worship Jesus and thank Him for overturning this egregious decision that was made in 1973, the same year I gave my life to the Lord. To say the least, it was hard going to sleep that night. God has answered our prayers, and we give Him all the praise, thanksgiving, and glory.



I also know that the real work now begins to make California a pro-life state. Lou Engle and I believed that in 1984, when we came to California, two things will take place: *Roe* would be overturned in our lifetime and California will become a pro-life state. The first objective miraculously came to pass on June 24, and I believe with all my heart that the Church—the true Church—was the catalyst in overturning *Roe*. I thank God for all the people who were part of the pro-life movement including pro-life Democrats. I thank God for all the pro-life organizations that sprang up since 1973. But in my opinion, it was the Ekklesia being the Ekklesia that was the main difference due to all their prayers, fasting, marching, organizing, and voting that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Therefore Jesus, the Head of the Ekklesia, gets all the praise, honor, and glory. I also believe that the church in California can and will make California a pro-life state. We are seeing revival and reformation taking place right before us.

We also see revival and reformation taking place in the books of Acts. By Acts 17, the Bible says this about Paul and his apostolic team: **“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also!” (Acts 17:6b)**

This summer, we begin a new series called The Summer of Freedom. I can’t think of a better time to launch a new series about Paul and one of the most important letters that he wrote, the Letter to the Galatians. In addition, I can’t think about a better time to talk about the freedom that we have in Christ than the Fourth of July weekend!

The book of Galatians, whose major theme is grace, includes freedom from sin by the grace of God.

Galatia was a region next to Asia, which today makes up modern-day Turkey. The letter was one of the earlier ones that was written around 50 AD. Some Judaizers, Jews who believed in Jesus the Messiah but also believed that you had to first become a Jew before you can be a true Christian, were influencing the church in Galatia. Paul writes to combat this legalism with a message of the grace of God and the freedom that we have in the Holy Spirit.

Today, by God’s grace, I want to focus on: 1) Paul’s Apostolic Ministry, 2) Paul’s Apostolic Message, 3) Paul’s Apostolic Motive. As an apostolic church, I pray that we would really embrace these biblical values into our life and into our ministry. Let me remind you, that you are all ministers! (1 Peter 2:9)

## I. PAUL’S APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

**A. Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), 2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:**

**B. General word on apostles:** *Apostolos* means “sent out one.”

1. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1).
2. Apostles have the highest level of authority.
3. 1 Corinthians 12:28 First apostles, second prophets, third teachers and pastors...
4. In the Old Testament, it is first prophets, then the high priest, and then kings.
5. Jesus called and selected the 12 apostles in Luke 6:12-13.
6. Apostles are called and sent out by God to bring heaven’s culture to the nations by discipling them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God’s Word.
7. **In the New Testament, we are all kings and priests (Revelation 1:5, 1 Peter 2:9).**

**C. Apostles are hitched to prophets.**

1. Ephesians 2:20 The church is founded on apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the cornerstone.
2. Prophets get extraordinary revelation from God, but apostles flesh out the word. The apostles make the word happen.
3. E.g. Lou Engle with TheCall.
4. **Apostles are the key to seeing revival and reformation.**
  1. John Wesley was an abolitionist. He advocated and brought about prison reform.
  2. William Wilberforce ended the slave trade by passing through Parliament the Slave Trade Act of 1807, which led to the end of slavery in England and the British commonwealth of nations in 1833, a few days before Wilberforce went home to be with Jesus.
  3. Why Revive California was birthed. Apostles in California have covenanted together to make California a pro-life state.
  4. Let me encourage you, if you have not done so, to read *Modern-Day Apostles* and *Turning Our Nation Back to God*.

**II. PAUL’S APOSTOLIC MESSAGE****A. BY GRACE WE ARE SAVED**

1. **Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen.**
2. **Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised**

us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; 9 not because of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

#### **B. BY GRACE WE ARE SANCTIFIED**

1. By grace we are saved, and by grace we are sanctified.
  2. **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
- C. Paul rebukes a false gospel that we can be saved and be sanctified by our own good works.
1. **Galatians 1:6** I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!
  2. The Judaizers were saying you must be circumcised and become Jewish first before you can be a true Christian.
- D. **“By God’s grace I am what I am.” 1 Corinthians 15:10**

### **III. PAUL’S APOSTOLIC MOTIVE**

#### **A. Paul’s motive was to please God.**

1. **Galatians 1:10** If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.
2. Paul uses very strong words. Let the person that is teaching a false gospel, let him be accursed.
3. **We are seeing churches that are so seeker-sensitive that we are afraid to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.”)**

4. This passage gave me courage when we sued Gov. Newsom.
- B. Paul was a servant leader. Romans 1:1 “Paul, a bondservant of Christ Jesus, called *as an apostle*, set apart for the gospel of God.”**
- C. Being apostolic in a post-*Roe* world.**
  1. We must walk in humility and not gloat over this victory.
  2. We must roll up our sleeves and with compassion be servants to women who are with child and need our help—from counseling to even paying for maternity expenses, childcare, and adoption. That is why I believe Haggai 2:7 is God’s now-word for the world. He is shaking the nations, and yet He is bringing in the wealth of the nations so that we can use the money to advance God’s Kingdom!
  3. We all need to volunteer freely in this unprecedented time of history! God will show you your divine assignment and how you can transform your world!