

What Drives Paul?

- I. The Apostle Paul's Mandate (1:1)
Paul's [authority](#) (his right to speak, his right to the title "Apostle")
 - A. The term apostle is a general term for anyone who is sent. (John 13:16)
 - B. The [title](#) "apostle" refers to the original 12 who were chosen at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13) and who were to lay the foundation of the church and be the channel of God's written revelation. (Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:20)
 1. The title designates those who received a special call and commission from Christ. So when Paul speaks or acts as an apostle of Christ, he does so with Christ's authority.
 2. Matthias replaced one of the original 12 apostles, Judas. (Acts 1:26)
The requirement to have seen the risen Christ was fulfilled by Paul. (Acts 1:22; Acts 9:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:5-8)
 3. Men like Barnabas (Acts 14:14) Silas and Timothy (1 Thes. 1:1 and 2:6) and other leaders of the church (Rom. 16:7) are referred to as apostles, probably because they were recognized as ministry partners and team members of the apostles.
 4. Second century writings evidence the understanding that apostles had passed from the scene. None of them were replaced. The title Apostle, and the office of Apostleship [ceased](#) with their deaths.
 - C. The manner in which Paul was chosen was different from, yet similar to that of the other apostles.
 1. Different from, in that Paul was not witness to Jesus' ministry from the beginning. (Acts 1:21-22)
 2. Similar to, in that the [risen](#) Jesus personally called and commissioned Paul.
 3. At his conversion, Paul was declared by the Lord Jesus to be chosen for ministry to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15)
 - a. Three years later in the temple the Lord told Paul that he would be sent to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:26-30 is recounted with more detail in Acts 22:17-21)
 - b. At Antioch the Holy Spirit commanded to set apart Paul and Barnabas for the work to which He had called them (Acts 13:1-3).
 4. Vs 2, "*and all the brothers who are with me*" likely refers to the leaders of the church in Antioch, and Barnabas, indicating that Paul's is no individual viewpoint, but one shared by his colleagues.
- II. The Apostle Paul's Message (the truth he speaks) (1:3-4)
 - A. Grace is the [source](#) of salvation.
 - B. Peace (*shalom* in Hebrew) is the [result](#) of salvation.
 1. Peace with God (Romans 5:1)
 2. Peace with each other (Eph. 2:14-18)
 3. Inner tranquility, peace of mind and heart, which stems from spiritual security.
All three are the proper outworking of God's grace in my life, in the church and in the world.
- C. The gospel of grace and peace came to us through Jesus Christ.
 1. The phrase "*who gave Himself*" speaks to [what](#) Jesus did.
 - a. Jesus gave Himself for us, on our behalf, in place of us.
He substituted Himself for us.
 - b. His death paid the price for our sins. (Matthew 20:28, 1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:5, 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:6, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18)
 2. The phrase "*for our sins*" speaks to [who](#) we are.
 - a. We are the helpless and the lost (Romans 5:6-10), without hope of saving ourselves. (Eph. 2:11-14)
 - b. Jesus came to rescue people from the penalty and power of sin.
The penalty is physical, relational and spiritual death. (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 6:23; Romans 1:18)
 3. The phrase "*so that He might rescue us from this present evil age*" speaks to [why](#) Jesus did this.
His purpose was rescue. His motive was love. (John 3:16)
 - a. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself to pay the price for our sins (1 Peter 2:24).
Deliverance from the power and penalty of sin is not attained or earned by my efforts to eliminate sin, by my balancing the bad I do with the good I do, by my making myself acceptable by good works and religious rituals, etc, but by my repentance and faith in Jesus for forgiveness. (Romans 3:20)
 - b. The purpose for which He died, His intended result, was to deliver us (to rescue us from danger) from this present evil age, this doomed world (evil world system) and eternal separation from God.
 - c. This evil world is presently suffering under the power and penalty of sin and it will forever, for it will be quarantined in a place called Hell. (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Cor. 2:6; Eph. 2:2; John 12:31)
 4. The phrase "*according to the will of our God and Father*" speaks to [what](#) God the Father did. It was His will and plan to rescue us through the work of His Son. The Father, Son and Spirit were in on it together.
- III. The Apostle Paul's Motive (his reason for speaking) (1:5)
 - A. Paul's supreme purpose was to [glorify](#) God.
 - B. Proclaiming the grace that brings salvation and the peace that salvation brings is the way Paul glorified God.
 - C. The false teachers proclaimed that Jesus [plus](#) man's works bring salvation. They added to faith in Jesus the requirements of Judaism, the initiation rite (circumcision), the religious rituals, the religious ceremonies, the dietary laws, etc..
 - D. Such a salvation is uncertain, brings no peace, and robs God of His glory. If you in any sense earn it or deserve it, then you get some of the credit or glory for your salvation.
 - E. The shift from grace to *grace plus works* is [the](#) problem.

Message

God's grace and God's glory are our message and motive.