"Recognizing the Grace"

Intro: The Apostle Paul found it necessary to write to the church in Galatia to _______________ the gospel of Jesus Christ. This powerful Spirit-breathed letter has ministered to believers everywhere for nearly 1960 years and has been referred to as the Magna Carta of Christian _______________. And beloved, by the ______________ of God today it is before us.

A. Coming to this morning’s text we find the Apostle continuing to establish the _______________ of his apostolic calling and the _______________ of his gospel message.

I. In defense of the _______________ of the gospel he preached Paul testified of the response he received from those of reputation.

A. The Apostles who were of high reputation _______________ one thing to Paul - not to his gospel message or apostolic authority.

1. Why had they nothing to add to his gospel? Because they and Paul had the _______________ perfect _______________ who taught them all they knew. … The Jerusalem Apostles did not contribute anything to Paul because they had nothing beyond Paul. Just as _______________ made the full gospel contribution to them so did He make the _______________ gospel contribution to Paul.

B. Strongly refuting the false teachers Paul said, “______ on the _______________ …” Rather than seeing that Paul needed to be rebuked, or corrected, or that his gospel was defective needing their contribution, the Jerusalem Apostles comprehended that ______ “had been _______________ with the gospel.”

1. Paul was _______________ with the gospel to the uncircumcised Gentiles just the _______________ _______________ was entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised Jews. Their calling was identical in every way except in their audience.

2. The same _______________ who energized and _______________ Peter in the administration of the gospel to the Jews energized and empowered Paul in the administration of the gospel to the Gentiles.

C. The Jerusalem Apostles who were reputed to be _______________, those who upheld the truth of God, who were great teaching influences in the church, _______________ the _______________ given to Paul.

1. So demonstratively apparent was the _______________ of God upon Paul that the reputed pillars of the church _______________ to Paul and Barnabas (notice the direction, they gave to Paul and Barnabas) the right hand of _______________.

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2. MacArthur writes, “The ‘pillars’ at Jerusalem recognized _______ not only as a _______ preacher and teacher of the gospel but also as a beloved (apostolic) partner with them in Christ’s service. . . . That act of affirmation both of Paul and of his message was a __________________ blow to the Judaizers.”

D. James and Peter and John, being Apostles of the church in Jerusalem which was severely poverty stricken, knowing that Paul and Barnabas were about to leave them to journey to the prosperous Gentile lands, only asked that they would __________________ the ____________.

1. In response to their request to remember the poor _______ said that it was the very thing that he was _____________ (pursuing the opportunity, taking great pains) to do.

2. Beloved, helping the poor is not the gospel but it is a __________ of the gospel. Those who are saved by _____________ learn to be gracious! Those who have realized the benevolent hand of God in their life learn to be benevolent. Those who understand God’s _____________ toward them learn to be merciful. Those who have received freely learn to give freely.

Finally then: Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul gave a convincing defense for his apostolic calling and the accuracy and fulness of his gospel message. He had been entrusted with the gospel and so did he uphold it, and so did the reputed Jerusalem Apostles bear witness of those facts. ________ __________ an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ and _______ gospel ________________ the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear family, there is something to be learned here and passed on to us, and that is the determination to _____________ and proclaim the true gospel of Jesus Christ and to ___________ ______ ________ to any distortion or negation of the gospel.

A. For upholding the true gospel there is a ____________ to pay. But whatever the price we must for Christ purchased us upon the cross by the shedding of _______ _________, and as of yet we have not suffered unto the point of the shedding of blood. There is not room for cowardice here! There is no room for the pleasing of men. Spare not for yourselves but be a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ for there is salvation in no other save in Christ alone. One is saved by the _____________ of God alone, through ________ alone, in _____________ alone.

And then, if Christ lives in you let Him ________ through you by loving all believers in practical ways, ministering to their needs. Beloved, let us recognize the _____________ of God.

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