



**SERIES: We Are Free December 2022-January 2023**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

**Scripture: Galatians 1:3-5**

**TITLE: You've Been Rescued**

Terrified. I will never forget the day on Green Lake. Green Lake is a pretty clean lake, but this day it was incredibly cloudy. I threw my son up in the air, but he went through my arms, and I couldn't find him. He wasn't a great swimmer at that time. I looked but couldn't see him. I waited he didn't pop up. I began to grab and twirl and twist and pray. I dove down. I saw a little movement, and I grabbed what I thought was my son. I went up to the surface and had my child in my arms. He was rescued that day.

If you are a follower of Christ today, you too have been rescued, But this kind of rescuing doesn't just save your physical life it saves your spiritual life as well. And that's what we want to talk about today as we continue our study of the Book of Galatians. Paul writes this in Galatians 1:3-5

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

You see, grace is the gift of salvation. But the result is peace. When we experience God's grace, we receive peace with God. I think if there is one thing that people long for today, it is peace.

Look around you. People are looking for peace. The problem is they tried to experience it in their own methodology. They pursue peace through drugs, alcohol, sex, job titles, and validation from a spouse or a parent. They try to experience peace through religious activities of giving money away to get their name on a brick. But the problem is none of those things bring true peace. They may bring temporary joy but not peace. So Paul says to remember the grace, and from that grace of God, you experience peace from God the father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

But then He reminds us of something very powerful. Paul writes, “who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Jesus Christ gave Himself up for our sins. You see, that is the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus gave himself up for us. Jesus Christ voluntarily gave himself up for us. He voluntarily became sin. The one who was sinless would take on our sin so that we might become the righteousness of God.

But Paul doesn't just stop with "rescue us." He says Jesus rescues us from the present evil age. Paul was not referring a specific and short period of time. Instead, he's referring to the evil world system we live in. Jesus came to rescue us from the lies of Satan – from Satan's influence and deceit. Jesus came to rescue us from religion. He came to save us from legalism. He came to save us from ourselves. He came to save us from the slavery of addiction and destruction.

It doesn't say that He destroyed these things, though surely He will. The evil age is still going on. It will go on until Christ comes back and delivers the final judgment. But thankfully, we may live in the evil age, but we don't live by it and for it anymore. He rescued us.

Friend, we have been rescued. Jesus rescued us. He took our sin debt and paid it in full. We can never outspend God's grace when we receive that gift of salvation.

Today, don't slip back into the belief system of the evil age. Legalism, license, slavery to sin, and addiction. You are free. You are free in Christ.

That is the message that people need to hear today. Your neighbor. Your friend. Your coworker. They are slaves to the system of the world. And God has rescued you and made you one of His rescue workers.

Will you rest and relish in God's grace? And will you share that Good News as you go? You are free to rest and free to share.