

Delivered

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Gal. 1:3 Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ,
Gal. 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

This scripture is about the purpose and process of our deliverance from the tremendous holding power of this present evil world. When the Lord created the earth, He designed it for the comfort and pleasure of man. In that design, I believe the Lord thought about all the needs and pure desires that His human creatures would have, and designed the world accordingly. That means that everything we would be needing, and everything our sinless minds would like to have were planned for. Then came sin. The world still had all this accommodating stuff for humanity on it, but humanity's mind had been changed. Instead of the human mind thinking on the things of God, the things of holiness, the things that would glorify the Lord, that mind turned in on itself and began to think in terms of "what is in it for me?" The selfish human mind quickly adapted a thought pattern that considered personal aspiration, personal pleasure, personal gain above everything else. From this change, mankind began to abuse the access he had to all the accommodations God had placed on the earth. In this self-centered pursuit of these things, he quickly became a slave to his own lusts and passions; or in other words, he became a slave to the things that were available for self-fulfillment in the world.

Our text tells us that our Lord gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from this terrible condition. That word deliver (Greek - "exaireo" [ex-ah-ee-reh`o]) defines a deliverance that strongly suggest "tearing out," "plucking out," or "rescuing." This is a great description of the work that Christ did for us in His sacrificial work. It constitutes a kind of ripping us away from the world, or tearing us loose from the world. That's what we want to think about today.

I. Consider the powerful grip of the world on humans

- Our human psyche identifies with the attractions and drawings of this present evil world
 - ▶ Hummingbirds have some kind of instinctive sense that attracts them to bright reds and yellows, and things shaped like flowers (baby hummingbirds are not taught to go to flowers by their parents; they come out of the nest with some kind of homing instinct for sources of nectar.
 - ▶ **Jer. 13:23** Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.
 - ▶ **1Cor. 15:48** *As is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy:
- Our natural human thinking easily channels toward enslavement to worldly ways
 - ▶ A very real parallel is the predisposition to addiction most humans have.
 - ▶ In the addiction process, the lust for drugs or alcohol, or whatever, commandeers the instinctive human drive we call the "survival instinct."
 - ▶ In other words, the craving for drugs or alcohol (or whatever is addictive) is a kind of second interpretation of the survival instinct.
 - ▶ Because of this, many people have a natural predisposition to become addicted to

something.

- ▶ This is a parallel to how human nature is drawn and driven toward fleshly things. The carnal mind interprets gaining worldly goals or worldly things as the ultimate fulfillment. This is what results in the awesome strangle-hold that the world has on the natural man.
- ▶ Scripture says, "...The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?" (**James 4:5**) and, regarding believers, that "the former conversation (of) the old man, ...is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...." (**Eph. 4:22**).
- ▶ That is, within us there dwells a nature that craves to possess everything we desire, and that is perverted because of depraved passions.
- Also, reversing the view, and looking from the perspective of the earth back toward the human creature, the things that exist all around us are alluring to our natural minds and human passions
 - ▶ The world system is constructed in such a way that it seems to offer all the things the human heart can long for.
 - Think about the hummingbird hung up on the bright reds and yellows, and the flower shaped objects again for a moment (nectar is his passion).
 - ▶ The holding power of the world has its roots in the design of creation. That is, the earth and its parts were designed for use by human kind, and it seems to offer those things most appealing to human nature, such as:
 - ▶ Power: which is a source of great attraction, and so, a source of great potential enslavement
 - The attraction of power is the very thing that overthrew Lucifer and excluded him from heaven (**Isaiah 14:14** "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.)
 - Power includes subordinate attractions such as dominance, pride, arrogance, rulership, authority, wealth, omnipotence, and lawlessness
 - Power is like the mythological (Greek) Hydra, which had many heads, which, when Heracles, the hero, cut off one of the heads, another would grow back in its place. It seems that his is similar to what happens once a man becomes enslaved by the lust for power. As soon as one ambition is realized another springs up.
 - ▶ Another great attraction to the flesh is self-fulfillment: for every longing for self-fulfillment the human heart has there seems to be an object in the world to satisfy that longing
- This is the enslaving chain that our Lord came to free us from.

II. The business of Christ was to tear us away from the world's clutches (let's be reminded again that our text verse uses the word "deliver," which in the Greek carries the strong idea of "tearing away.")

- The first step in escaping the slavery of evil is to be redirected by something supernatural occurring within us
 - ▶ Did you ever watch a bull fight? What is all that red cape stuff? It is redirection.
 - ▶ All of us have seen the stereotyped turbaned Indian with the flute to his lips, swaying and playing the flute while making the cobra weave back and forth. That is redirection.
 - ▶ The Holy Spirit in our souls is able to re-direct our attention to the things of God
 - ▶ The new creature finds other interests besides the allurements of the world

- **Eph. 4:24** tells us that the new man is “created in righteousness and true holiness.”
- The second step is to re-educate us about what things are truly good, and desirable, and what things are detrimental and deadly.
 - ▶ In predator damage management we use sodium fluoroacetate to manage damage caused by coyotes to livestock. Sodium sounds innocuous enough that you might think (if you just heard the name, and didn’t know what it was used for) they were relatively safe. But it is a deadly poison. (Explain how it is applied and used on livestock protection collars).
 - ▶ The teachings of Christ re-educate us to understand the deadly poison that lurks in following the passions of our human nature.
 - **Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12 Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

III. The great scheme of emancipation was according to the will of our Heavenly Father (“...according to the will of God and our Father.”)

- Aren’t you glad we have a Heavenly Father who is looking out for our welfare?
 - ▶ Concerning God, Peter says: **1Pet. 5:7** Casting all your care upon him; **for he careth for you.**
- Aren’t you glad He has the kind of power that can make freeing us from slavery possible
- Aren’t you glad He knows just what it takes to free us
 - ▶ **Ephesians 2:1** “And you hath he **quickened** who were dead in trespasses and sins”
- Aren’t you glad He was willing to sacrifice His Son in order to be able to pardon us from sin
 - ▶ **Rom. 8:32** He that spared not his own Son, but **delivered him up for us all**, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- Aren’t you glad He understood what it would take to tear us away from the enslavement of the world.