

Galatians 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

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 verse condenses Paul's gospel powerfully. "Gave himself" (dóntos heauton, δόντος ἑαυτόν) emphasizes Christ's voluntary self-sacrifice—not coerced but chosen. The reflexive pronoun intensifies personal nature: Christ didn't merely give something but gave Himself completely.

"For our sins" (hyper tōn hamartiōn hēmōn) uses hyper ("on behalf of," "in place of"), indicating substitutionary atonement. Christ didn't die as moral example but as substitute bearing sin's penalty. The purpose clause "that he might deliver" (hopōs exelētai) expresses intended result—deliverance from "this present evil age" (tou aiōnos tou enestōtos ponērou).

Paul presents apocalyptic two-age structure: present evil age dominated by sin, death, Satan; and age to come inaugurated by Christ's resurrection. Believers live in the overlap, already delivered while still physically present. Salvation came "according to the will of God and our Father," grounding redemption in divine sovereignty and initiative, not human merit or effort.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic thought divided history into "this age" under sin and "the age to come" when Messiah would establish God's kingdom. Paul radically reinterprets: Christ's death and resurrection inaugurated the new age, though the old continues until His return. Believers already participate in resurrection life while inhabiting fallen creation. Emphasis on Christ's self-giving directly addresses Judaizers—if Christ's sacrifice delivered from this evil age, adding law-keeping implies His work was incomplete.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what specific ways has Christ's self-giving for your sins reshaped your sense of worth, identity, and purpose?
2. In what areas are you still captive to this present evil age's values, priorities, and patterns?
3. Why does salvation depending on God's will (not your performance) bring both freedom and assurance simultaneously?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ δόντος ἐαυτὸν ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἀμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν ὅπως

Who gave himself for Who sins our that
G3588 G1325 G1438 G5228 G3588 G266 G2257 G3704

ἐξέληται ἡμᾶς ἐκ τοῦ ἐνεστῶτος αἰῶνος πονηροῦ

he might deliver us from Who this present world evil
G1807 G2248 G1537 G3588 G1764 G165 G4190

κατὰ τοῦ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ πατρὸς ἡμῶν

according Who to the will Who of God and Father our
G2596 G3588 G2307 G3588 G2316 G2532 G3962 G2257

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 20:28 (Parallel theme): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Romans 4:25 (Parallel theme): Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Galatians 2:20 (References God): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 2:24 (Sin): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (References God): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephesians 2:2 (Parallel theme): Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

1 Timothy 2:6 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Titus 2:14 (Sin): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Romans 12:2 (References God): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (References God): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

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