

Galatians 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Analysis

To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. This doxology concludes the greeting with ascription of glory to God. The relative pronoun "whom" refers to "God and our Father" (v. 4), though the unity of Father and Son suggests glory belongs to both. Greek *hē doxa* (ἡ δόξα) uses the definite article, pointing to God's unique, supreme, unshared glory.

"For ever and ever" translates *eis tous aiōnas tōn aiōnōn* (εἰς τοὺς αἰώνας τῶν αἰώνων), literally "unto the ages of the ages"—Hebrew superlative construction expressing eternity. God's glory is eternal and essential to His nature. "Amen" (amēn, ἀμήν) from Hebrew *լոք* means "truly" or "so be it," functioning as affirmation and prayer.

Paul's strategic placement of doxology after stating the gospel anticipates the letter's central argument: any teaching diminishing Christ's complete work robs God of glory. If salvation depends partly on human effort, glory must be shared between God and man. The Judaizers' message fundamentally dishonored God by suggesting His grace in Christ was insufficient. This makes the controversy ultimately about God's glory.

Historical Context

Doxologies were common in Jewish prayer and worship (synagogue liturgy). Paul adapts this liturgical form for Christian use, directing glory to God through Christ. Early Christian practice of ascribing divine glory to Jesus reflects high Christology

from the earliest days—Jesus receives worship and honor belonging to Yahweh alone. In honor-shame cultures, glory (doxa/kabod) was supreme social currency. Paul's emphasis on God's exclusive glory radically challenged both pagan and Jewish honor systems.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do your beliefs about salvation give all glory to God or require sharing glory with human decision or effort?
2. When did you last spontaneously worship God in response to contemplating the gospel's beauty and completeness?
3. What would your calendar and bank account reveal about whether you live for God's glory or your own comfort?

Interlinear Text

ῷ	ἢ	δόξα	εἰς	τοὺς	αἰώνων	τῶν	αἰώνων	ἀμήν
To whom	G3588	be glory	for	G3588	and ever	G3588	and ever	Amen
G3739		G1391	G1519		G165		G165	G281

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:36 (Glory): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Jude 1:25 (Glory): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:21 (Glory): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 72:19 (Glory): And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.

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