Student Outline: Lesson 1 – The Gospel of Freedom

Scripture Reading: Galatians 1:1–5

I. The Herald and the Divine Decree (1:1–2)

- **A. The Crisis of the Missing Thanksgiving**
  - The "deafening silence" of the missing preamble.
  - The extreme urgency of the Galatian defection.
  - The "firefight" to protect the truth of the gospel.
- **B. The Herald: ἀπόστολος**
  - Definition of *apostolos*: a commissioned messenger or envoy.
  - The herald as the "voice" of the King, not a personal authority.
  - Paul as a **Χριστοῦ δοῦλος** (slave of Christ).
- **C. The Source of Authority: οὐκ ἀπ' ἀνθρώπων**
  - "Not from men nor through man": countering the "second-tier" accusation.
  - The **High Court Analogy**: The Gospel as a written, non-negotiable decision.
  - Protecting the "writtenness" of God's decree against human tradition.
- **D. The Resurrection and the Living Lord**
  - The resurrection as proof of a living mandate from the heavenly court.
  - The "churches of Galatia": a universal decree for every gathering.

II. The Rescue Mission and the Power of Death (1:3–4)

- **A. The Greeting of Grace and Peace**
  - **Χάρις** (Grace) and **Εἰρήνη** (Peace) as a theological counter-attack.
  - Reminding the Galatians of the ground upon which they stand.
- **B. The Gospel in a Nutshell: τοῦ δόντος ἑαυτὸν**
  - The voluntary sacrifice: Jesus "gave himself."
  - Reversing the "power of death": God gives to us, we do not buy Him off.
- **C. The Rescue Mission: ὅπως ἐξέληται ἡμᾶς**
  - Definition of *exelētai*: a violent snatching away or "jailbreak."
  - The Gospel as a rescue mission, not a self-help manual.

- **D. The Power of Death and the Present Evil Age**
    - **αἰῶνος** (Age) as a world-order governed by the fear of mortality.
    - **Ritual Bribery**: The attempt to outrun death through human rituals (circumcision).
    - The "evil" of the present age: denying grace to serve human masters.
- **E. The Finished Work**
    - The rescue as a historical fact, not a future possibility.
    - The danger of trying to crawl back into the "furnace" of slavery.

III. The Will of the Father and the Roadmap (1:4–5)

- **A. The Sovereign Mandate: κατὰ τὸ θέλημα**
    - **θέλημα** (Will) as the absolute law of the King.
    - The rescue as a pre-determined decree, not a "Plan B."
- **B. The Fatherhood of God vs. Human Masters**
    - God as **πατρὸς ἡμῶν** (our Father): a statement of lineage and authority.
    - **υἱοθεσίαν** (Adoption): bypassing human gatekeepers and traditions.
- **C. The Doxology: ᾧ ἡ δόξα**
    - **δόξα** (Glory) belongs only to the Father.
    - The political statement: rejecting human "boasting" in the flesh.
- **D. The Roadmap of the New Creation**
    - Preview of Lessons 2–8: From revelation to the **καινὴ κτίσις** (new creation).
- **E. Conclusion: The Call to Stand Fast**
    - The Gospel as a rescue announcement.
    - The choice: the "present evil age" or the freedom of the King.