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Freedom To Live For Christ

Galatians 1:11-24

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will look at the second half of the first chapter of Galatians. In this section Paul talks about his dramatic transformation from persecuting the church to being a minister of the Gospel. Paul's conversion is undoubtedly hard for some to believe. However, for those that understand, it gives them reason to praise the Lord. Paul does not receive the Gospel in the same way that the other apostles do. While the others had been eyewitnesses to the life of Jesus and His death on the cross, Paul is not. However, Paul receives the Gospel strait from the Lord. It is important for us to know that the Gospel Paul receives and the Gospel the others witness is truly the same, giving us confidence in the one true Gospel.

they simply kept hearing: "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Galatians 1:23-24

Read Galatians 1:11-24 (NET)

¹¹ Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

¹² For I did not receive it or learn it from any human source; instead I received it by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I was savagely persecuting the church of God and trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my nation, and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵ But when the one who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not go to ask advice from any human being,

¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, but right away I departed to Arabia, and then returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and get information from him, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you that, before God, I am not lying about what I am writing to you! ²¹ Afterward I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² But I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They were only hearing, "The one who once persecuted us is now proclaiming the good news of the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ So they glorified God because of me.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. How did Paul first receive the gospel? (Also consider Acts 9)

9. What are some of the reasons we believe that the gospel Paul preaches is from God?

10. In verse 24, why did the people glorify God because of Paul?

11. Why do you think Paul spends so much time in the letter talking about how he received the gospel?

12. Why do you think Paul went to visit Peter 3 years after his conversion?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. How can we reassure people today that the gospel we believe is truly from God?

14. a. Are there people today that make a dramatic transformation in their life and start living for God the way Paul did? What are some advantages and disadvantages that they have in doing ministry?

b. How can people that are long time Christians support believers that are making a big transformation?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES