

GALATIANS 1:10-24 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL - ([SERMON MP3](#))

In Galatians 1:11-24, Paul unpacks his personal story of God's grace. He explains how God worked in his life even before he was saved to bring him to the point of conversion and to equip him for future service. In Paul's estimation, that was grace.



- *Do you ever find yourself thinking you deserve God's grace? What prompts you to think that way?*
- *How does the gospel of grace free you from pride and from guilt?*
- *In what ways can you see how God worked in our life before your conversion to equip you to serve Him after it?*

How are you most tempted to fear men and seek their approval? What would change if, in those moments, you lived to please the God who is pleased with you?



- How can you know that God is pleased with you?
- What result of a gospel-changed life does (v. 10) show us?
- When do we find it hard to be a God-pleaser? Why?
- Respond to the following statements about people-pleasers: They cave under pressure, are afraid to confront, and hide from the shame of Christ. What advice would you give someone struggling with this? Have you been guilty of any of these?

Solitary time, as Paul had in Arabia, is crucial in developing our relationship with God. In a culture that is built around activity and accomplishment, how are you doing spending time with God through reading and prayer?



- *How do you take time in your day to meditate on your identity as His child? What reminds you of who you are and how you got there?*
- *How do you take time in your day to reflect on his grace and thank Him for it? What are the clearest evidences of grace in your life this week?*

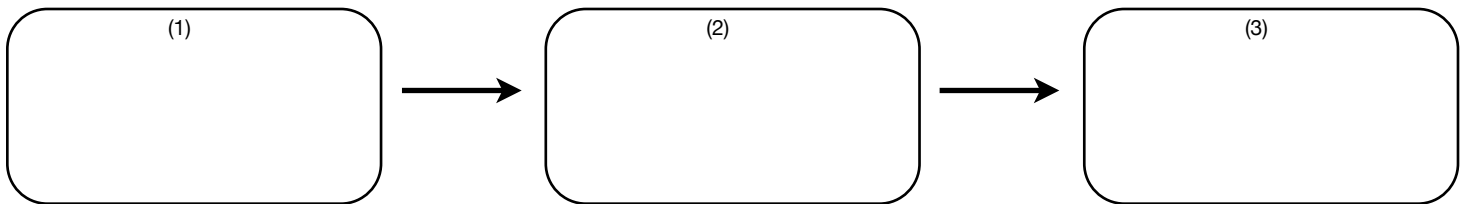
What were the driving forces in Paul's life before his conversion according to (v. 14) _____? What were yours?



- What are the biggest changes which knowing Christ has brought about in your life?
- What changes in your life would you still like the Lord to bring about?
- What significance do you see in the fact that the Christians in Judea praised God because of Paul, rather than Paul himself (v. 24)?

DIG DEEPER FOR FURTHER STUDY

From the autobiographical section in Galatians 1:11-24, fill in the boxes below tracing (1) Paul's life before becoming a Christian, (2) How Paul became a Christian, and (3) What he did after becoming a Christian? When you think about who Paul was, what is so amazing and wonderful about (v. 15-16)? What are some of the implications for your life?



In Galatians 1:11-24, Paul defends his credentials in order to prove the authority and authenticity of his message.

- In what ways do you think credentials are important?
- What is Paul's attitude toward his religious "credentials?"
- Which of your credentials ultimately matter most? How can you better use your gifts, experiences, and training to serve the Lord more effectively this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

No human explanation or influence could account for the 180-degree turn around in Saul's life.

- What does Paul reveal as the driving force behind his actions in the past (v. 13-14)? How does that compare with his current motivation (v. 10, 15-16)?
- How does Paul's conversion demonstrate the truth of election and give authority to his ministry?
- Where and how did Paul receive his initial preparation for ministry?
- When Paul eventually conferred with the other apostles, how did they react to his message and his ministry among the Gentiles? How does this contribute to the argument Paul is making about the authenticity of his message?