

“THE TRANSFORMING WORK OF GRACE” – Galatians 1:10-24

THE THEME OF GALATIANS = GRACE

*The Gospel [Good News] is the STORY about Jesus, who SAVES and REDEEMS people from their sin and gives them a new opportunity for a transformed LIFE that PLEASES God.*

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Total EXCLUSIVITY = there is only one way by which human beings can be made right with God [saved]

*“A person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ.” – Galatians 2:16*

Total INCLUSIVITY = anyone can be made right with God [saved] when they repent of their sin and place their trust in Jesus Christ

*“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28*

- No one is UNQUALIFIED
- No one is DISQUALIFIED
- Every one is PRE-QUALIFIED

PAUL’S INSPIRATION

*<sup>10</sup>Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant. <sup>11</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. <sup>12</sup>I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.*

- He LIVES for an audience of ONE
- He REFUTES the idea that his gospel was his idea
- He UNQUALIFIED the source of his inspiration

PAUL’S INTERRUPTION

*<sup>13</sup>You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.*

*<sup>15</sup>But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him <sup>16a</sup>to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.*

- Amazing grace = Paul’s life BEFORE Jesus
- Amazing grace = Paul’s life WITH Jesus

PAUL’S IMPLEMENTATION

*<sup>16b</sup>When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. <sup>17</sup>Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.*

*<sup>18</sup>Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord’s brother. <sup>20</sup>I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.*

*<sup>21</sup>After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia.*

*<sup>22</sup>And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn’t know me personally. <sup>23</sup>All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!” <sup>24</sup>And they praised God because of me.*

- Paul’s conversion was both INSTANTANEOUS and it took TIME
- Paul’s conversion was revealed by changed COMMITMENTS
- Paul’s conversion can be a STANDARD by which we can evaluate our commitments

THE APPLICATION

*Paul’s conversion legitimizes how the Gospel SAVES and REDEEMS people from their sin and gives them a new opportunity for a transformed LIFE that PLEASES God.*

*Grace offers you a BEFORE Jesus story and grace offers you a WITH Jesus story. Grace offers you a CHOICE.*