



Galatians

Transformation for Proclamation

Series – Galatians

- setting in what is now modern day Turkey
- Roman province of Galatia – primarily Gentile
- Churches planted by Paul on a missionary journey
- Judaizers joining the group – having influence teaching
 - encouraging a return to Judaic traditions and customs
 - undermining Paul's authority, apostleship and message

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.”

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

²¹ Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they praised God because of me." Galatians 1:11-24

1. Revealed By God vs.11-12

- was a question – where is this teaching originating?
- implication – man made, opinion, influence of others
- Paul wants to be clear – Jesus Christ, risen and active, has revealed the truth to my heart!
- Acts 26:16-18 **“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’**

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ¹⁶ ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

2. Transformation Story – vs.13-14

a) You have heard..... (most unlikely candidate)

- public record – well known his teaching & persecution
- ‘desire was for destruction’
- ‘advocate for Judaism’
- ‘zealous for Traditions’
- Paul was: sincere, zealous, committed, driven, - wrong!

b) My Life was Touched By God.....(met me where I was)

- Had a Plan – knew me before birth

- Called me by His Grace – amazing
 - was on my way to kill more Christians
 - most undeserving recipient – undeserved favour
- Pleased to reveal his Son
 - God's love for us, plan for our redemption, revealed with great affection and pleasure to Paul
 - Living Jesus speaks to Paul – relationship with the Holy Spirit active and alive in his heart and life
- Enabled Me To Proclaim
 - so that I might preach.....
 - clear call to preach the gospel to the Gentiles
 - process – withdrew to Arabia, Damascus, not going to other teachers, getting alone with God and hearing

3. Evidence of the Truth vs. 18-24

a) Embrace of Peter

- leader of the church, chosen and charged by Jesus himself
- 15 days spent together, meeting James
- 2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

- obvious He considers Paul's wisdom from the Holy Spirit and his letters authoritative as scripture

b) Exaltation of the Church

- Travels to Syria and Cilicia – not personally known there
- reputation would make them cautious, cynical, unsure
- reports – they praised God because of me
 - transformation, power evidenced, God at work
- Glory given to God – not to Paul - appropriate

So What

1. God Is Still Revealing Himself to People

- opening the eyes of our hearts to see truth
- encountering the Holy Spirit – given opportunity to respond
- power of his word revealing truth

2. God is in the Transformation Business

- a) Loving the most unlikely – calling them to Him
- b) Meeting them where they are at – inviting them to encounter transforming love and relationship
- c) Making Divine Changes – working in them to reveal himself to others – enabling them for proclamation

3. Work of God – Witness to our World

- called by God into relationship as Disciples
- enabled by God to know His heart and have it change yours
- need to proclaim the truth about the gospel
- need to live evidence of the almighty God transforming us