



Title | Transformation
Series | Witness For the Defense
Text | Galatians 1:10-24
By | Jeff Dover
Date | December 31, 2023

Sermon Notes

1:10-24 ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal His Son in me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the LORD's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Galatians 1:23-24: ²³ They were only hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy. ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

The True Gospel of Faith is often accused of being a gospel of, “easy believe-ism,” one that teaches a cheap form of admission to the Kingdom of Heaven. Paul refutes this slur by reminding his readers that he is a slave to Jesus. Why is this important? How does this answer the accusation that Free Grace is cheap and costs nothing?

Tuesday:

The false teachers accused Paul of trying to please men rather than God with his, “easy believe-ism” gospel. How did Paul answer this second slur?

Wednesday:

Grace has been defined as an, “unreasonable kindness.” Do you agree with the author’s definition? Why or why not?

Thursday:

Paul said he was separated from the womb to be and Apostle of Jesus Christ. What does this mean for the doctrine that one must perform works in order to please God and earn His love and favor?

Friday:

Paul ends his opening statement to the court by recounting the story of the believers who were amazed that, “he who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” Paul’s transformation from someone who was filled with so much hate in his heart that he hunted down, arrested and killed others to someone who was filled with so much love that he now sacrificed everything to reach a lost and dying world. How can his transformation inspire us as we deal with the guilt of our some of our own sinful actions?.

Daily Prayer:

Father, as we reflect on Paul’s transformation from a hate-filled existence to a love-filled heart, may we always be reminded that a life based on works can never lead to anything but a broken life. We thank You for the transformation and healing that comes with faith in Christ. Amen.