

Gal. 1:11-16

From Persecutor to Preacher

- the devil loves to prey on those who are young in the Lord (babes)
 - (This doesn't necessarily have anything to do with how long someone has been saved)
- in this section, Paul reminds them of who he was at time and who he is now
 - (Paul goes back to this due to the Judaizers' attack on him)
- if they could convince them that Paul wasn't a full apostle, then they could discredit his message
Truth- the real battle wasn't on Paul's credibility but on the sufficiency of Christ's death
(vs. 11-12)- "certify"- (gnorizo) to make known or declare
 - *this is a strong word used to introduce something of utmost importance
 - (It's a word used with the intent of leaving no doubt)
 - *the gospel Paul preached was not of human origin nor was it even preached to him by the other apostles- Acts 9
- 12- "received it of man"- this was in contrast to the Judaizers
 - they received their religious instruction from rabbinic traditions
- *Paul knew this since he was taught some of the same things by one of the most respected rabbi teachers of that day- Gamaliel (Acts 5:34, 22:3)
- by the "revelation of Jesus Christ", Paul was shown that his works could not save him
(Even though at the time, Paul was convinced that he was doing right- Prov. 12:15, 16:2, 21:2)
- vs. 13- "conversation"- (anastrophe) manner of life, conduct, or behavior
 - *Paul often related his personal testimony as a part of his ministry
(Acts 22:5-10, 26:11-18, I Cor. 15:9, Gal. 1)
- "measure"- (hyperbole) this is where we get the word "hyperbole"
 - the word means to go to extremes or a throwing beyond
- "persecute"- (dioko) a pursuit in order to cause another to flee or abandon
- "waste"- (portheo) to destroy or overthrow
- *a part of Paul's testimony is that he went beyond extremes to stop Christianity
(Even though it was by a different method, Paul knew the Judaizers were doing the same thing)
 - *both Saul of Tarsus and the Judaizers tried to discredit the sacrifice Jesus made
- vs. 14- "profited"- (prokopto) to go forward or to advance
 - this word is a logging term- at one time he saw Christians as obstacles standing in his path and he sought to chop them down- by extreme measures
- "Jews' religion"- this system had become a works righteousness
 - *instead of continuing in the Scriptures that they had, they had gone away from that to follow rabbinic interpretations and traditions
- At that point, they had added over 600 rules and regulations to their legalist religion- Mk. 7:8-9, 13
- vs. 15- Notice in the last 2 verses Paul only mentions God when he mentions to persecuted church
 - "when it pleased God"- meaning in His perfect time and in His gracious purpose
- "separated me"- Paul is referring to him being set apart for service from the time of his birth
(This statement suggests that God selected him without regard for his personal merit or effort)
 - "called"- (kaleo) to utter in a loud voice, to give a name to someone
- vs. 16- these 2 verses show the omniscience of God
 - *His foreknowledge is a part of His Sovereignty
- God allowed Paul to become a Pharisee in order to know how to combat the Judaizers' heresy
Truth- no better person to combat something than someone who has lived it
 - "heathen"- a term used for the Gentiles