

GALATIANS

October 20, 2013

Lesson 4 - 1:18-24 - "The Way of the Chosen" Craig Crawshaw

Galatians 1:18-24 [I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.] Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." And they were glorifying God because of me.

Paul's Conversion: Acts 9: 1-19 READ

Note vs. 4: Jesus said "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" To persecute the church is to persecute Jesus.

Note vs. 15: "But he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel." We too are a chosen instrument of Jesus, to bear His name to Santa Barbara and our contemporaries.

Paul's Path of Restoration: Galatians 2: 17-24 / Acts 9:19-31 READ

1. Immediate acknowledgment of Jesus (Acts 9:19-21)
2. Arabia **facing his new self**
 - a. Solitude & strengthening (Acts 9:22)
 - b. Reflection & preparation
3. Damascus **facing his former foes** (Acts 9: 19b-25)
 - a. Testimony
 - b. Strengthening
4. Jerusalem **facing his former critics** (Acts 9: 26-29)
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Unity
5. Syria & Cilicia **facing his past life** (Acts 9:30-31)
 - a. Facing family & friends
 - b. Facing his Hebrew upbringing

Man-pleasing vs. God-pleasing

Galatians 1:10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

Ephesians 6:5-6 *...be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men.*

Defending the Gospel Transformation by God Alone

1. Not by a process of reasoning
2. Not from the influence and tutoring of others
3. (yet) Not independent from others (confirmation)
4. God was glorified because of me

Dwight L. Moody: "Some people have just enough religion to make them miserable."

THE WAY OF THE CHOSEN

1. We are chosen from the womb (even before)
2. We are captured by God
3. We reassess our former and present life
4. We refocus our present and future to please God
5. We are ever amazed by God's love and grace