

GOSPEL

FROM THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

OF FREEDOM

STUDY GUIDE

3. CALLED BY GOD - GAL. 1:11-24

INTRODUCTION

Prior to Paul the apostle becoming, “Paul, the apostle”, he lived among an elite sect of ultra-religious Jews, called Pharisees. These men were highly respected among the population of Jews as being protectors of God’s word and the traditions of their elders, and some in their ranks would stop at nothing to safeguard these, even if it involved murder. These religious fundamentalists could easily be compared to suicide bombers in today’s culture, and they posed a great threat to many, especially the Gospel.

This was Paul’s background, until God called/saved him. He was saved, not from gross immorality and blatant wickedness (as many are), but rather from an idolatry that built its life & derived its identity/self-worth from the moralistic traditions of men. (Gal. 1:14)

Paul was an evidence of God’s grace, and all who knew him or heard his story rejoiced in God’s power. (Gal 1:24)

DISCUSSION

Before you were saved, would you describe your former life by: a “sanitized morality/religiousness”, or a “dirty immoral sinfulness”? What evidences of God’s grace has God done in your life to change you? Talk about what God is doing to transform you from who you were.

EXAMINATION

- Why do you think Paul uses his own personal story to prove his apostleship?
- Even though telling our “testimony” is not necessarily the same thing as “preaching the gospel”, what value is there in sharing our testimony?
- Have you ever seen churches or Christian groups quarrel w/ one another? What were the reasons for their argument? According to Galatians 1, what would Paul tell us is the answer to these struggles?

APPLICATION

Pray that God would give you humility, discernment and a desire to live in unity with other believers, by keeping the Gospel as the main thing. Pray that God would mature you so that you can be an agent of change.

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