

Galatians, Free in Grace

(3) Grace demonstrated in Paul's life

Paul's background, before he was saved...1:11-14

What is the clear statement Paul makes of "his" Gospel? vs.11 Jn.6:28-29

This Gospel is not something invented by any man. In ourselves we require good works.

And what is his point in verse 12? IThess.2:1-8; Eph.3:1-3; IICor.12:1-4

Paul's Gospel was not his, not taught by man to him. Direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

Why is vs.13-14 such a strong argument?

Paul was violently opposed to Grace! He decimated the early church. In the name of God!

In today's terms, what are the chances of Paul 'changing sides'?

About like Osama Bin Laden converting to our side! This would take an absolute miracle.

Paul's background after he was saved...1:15-24

How does Paul describe the miracle of his salvation? vs.15-16a; Acts 9:1-9; Eph.2:8-10; 3:8

Like every conversion; an act of God's sovereign grace. Note his instant call to preach...

What is emphasized about his actions immediately *after* conversion? vs.16b-17; Acts 22:1-22

He got no instruction from men or Apostles. Fled to Arabia to be trained of the Lord.

After 3 years (likely instructed by the Lord), what does he do? vs.18-19 why?

Went to Jerusalem to get acquainted (NOT instructed) with Peter, James. Stayed 15 days.

What is the significance of Paul's words in vs.20?

This was an oath statement of the highest gravity to a Jew. Claiming God as his witness.

What was one reason why vs.22 was true? Acts 9:26

The believers thought his "conversion" was just a trick! His reputation was so bad...

Why is even this an important 'detail' in Paul's background?

If he had been taught by the Apostles they would have trusted him. But they didn't...

Eventually the word of Paul's conversion spread, vs.23. What was the result? vs.24

The believers came to accept Paul and praised God because of his conversion/ministry.

Summary: Why believe Paul's Gospel?

Where did Paul get this Gospel?

Directly from Jesus Christ. Not Apostles, not Judaizers, not any man, not himself.

How does Paul's background testify of the radical Gospel?

He went from zealous persecutor to zealous preacher! He was transformed by the Gospel!

Why do you think the Lord kept Paul separated from the other Apostles for so long?
