

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

FROM PERSECUTOR TO PREACHER

Pastor Roger Poupart // Galatians 1:11-24

PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; 14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. 15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; 23 but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 And they were glorifying God because of me.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?
- How do you determine whether someone or something is a trustworthy source of authority?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** Paul asserted that his gospel did not come from man but through a revelation of Jesus. He reminded the Galatians of his former life as a zealous persecutor of the church and described how God graciously called and changed him. Then, without consulting anyone, Paul went to Arabia (v. 11-17).
 - What language would you use to describe Paul's former way of life in Judaism?

GROW IN THE WORD

- What was it that Paul the persecutor did to be changed into the Apostle Paul we know today? See Acts 9:1-19; 26:12-16.

- How does Paul's story of conversion support his argument that his gospel is not from man?

02. Paul recounted his visit to Jerusalem three years later when he met Peter (Cephas) and James. Paul affirmed that he was telling the truth in his letter, and wrote about how he was unknown by sight to the Judean churches. Yet, his reputation preceded him, and those churches heard of his transformation and glorified God as a result (v. 18-24).

- What stands out to you most in this passage?

GROW IN THE WORD

- In what ways do the details of Paul's interaction with Peter and James support his argument that his gospel is not from man?

- As we've seen in our passage, God can use our stories of faith to bring great things into the world. What is your story? How might God want to use your story to bring good into this world?

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, October 20 | 12:30 - 4:30 pm

Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship at Morgan's Wonderland during our annual picnic! Admission to the park, including new attractions, is free and we will have food trucks onsite if you'd prefer not bringing in your own lunch. Learn more online.

THE TABLE: WOMEN'S MENTORING

October 18 | 6 - 8 pm | \$12 Per Person

Ladies will gather together in fellowship over a delicious dinner with women from all seasons of life to develop organic relationships. During the evening, you will be assigned a table that has both mentors and mentees. Learn more and register online today!