

The Persecutor turns Preacher and God is Glorified

Galatians 1:18 - 24

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Paul visits Peter in Jerusalem

Galatians 1:18 (NASB)

Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

- "Then" denotes chronological sequence
- John 1:42 says "Cephas" means Peter

2

Paul saw James, Jesus' half-brother

Galatians 1:19 (NASB)

But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

- James was a prominent leader in Jerusalem
- He was not James the brother of John who was martyred according to Acts 12:2

3

Paul's oath formula shows that what he says was being challenged by false teachers

Galatians 1:20

(Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.)

- Paul swears that he did not get the gospel second hand
- Paul's gospel was not different from or subordinate to the gospel preached by the apostles in Jerusalem

4

Paul left Jerusalem after a short time and went to his home area

Galatians 1:21, 22 (NASB)

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;

- Syria and Cilicia were a single Roman province
- Judea was a large Roman province
- Most local congregations in Judea would not have recognized Paul "by face"

5

The persecutor turned preacher

Galatians 1:23

but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."

- They did not know him by "face" but by hearing
- Paul was *euaggelizo* "the faith" which he previously "plundered" or "ravaged"

6

Stephen indicted his audience, which included Paul

Acts 7:51, 52 (NASB)

You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and **murderers** you have now become;

7

Paul was a betrayer and murderer

Acts 9:1, 2 (NASB)

Now Saul, still breathing threats and **murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

8

Converted Paul preached like Stephen

Acts 13:32, 33 (NASB)

And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son; today have begotten You.'

9

The converted enemy brings glory to God

Galatians 1:24

And they were glorifying God because of me.

- God is glorified when sinners are converted
- We should accept repentant sinners into fellowship that God would be glorified

10

Implications and Applications

- Conversion through the gospel involves a radical change of status
- The 5th “Sola”— ‘to the glory of God alone’, must be central in our lives and local congregation
- Bearing God’s name means that we must avoid shaming it through sin and idolatry

11

Conversion through the gospel involves a radical change of status

Romans 5:8-10 (NASB)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

12

**The 5th "Sola"— 'to the glory of God alone',
must be central in our lives and church**

2Peter 3:17, 18 (HCSB)

Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

13

**Bearing God's name means that we must
avoid shaming it through sin and idolatry**

Ezekiel 36:22b-23a

"It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst."

14

Benediction

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20, 21

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