

Christ Community Church

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Letters for Life

Galatians 1:11-24

(English Standard Version)

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Notes

"True conversion means turning not only from sin but also from depending on self-made righteousness. Those who trust in their own righteousness for conversion hide behind their own good works. This is the reason that self-righteous people are so angry with gospel preachers, because the gospel does not spare those who will not submit to the righteousness of Jesus Christ!" **George Whitfield**

Galatians 1:11-12

"For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."

"Paul makes a play on words when he refers to 'the gospel that I gospelled to you.'" **Morris**

2 Peter 1:19-21

"And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Galatians 1:13-17

"For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers."

Acts 8:3

"But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison."

"Before his conversion to Christ, Paul was a Pharisee and wholeheartedly committed to the Jewish religion of that day which was corrupt and apostate. The Jews added many man-made traditions in the Halacha (daily guide on how to live) to the Old Testament teaching. The supernatural Jewish religion of the Old Testament was degenerated because of ritualism and was corrupt and dead. Paul knew nothing of a supernatural religion. Judaism in Paul's time was apostate, basing salvation on good works and the Old Testament concept of salvation by grace through faith was a lost concept." **Dr. Jack Arnold**

Galatians 1:15-17

"But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus."

"He wanted to show that his calling depended on the secret election of God, and that he was ordained an apostle, not because he had fitted himself for undertaking such an office by his own industry or because God had discerned that he was worthy of having it bestowed on him, but because, before he was born, he had been set apart by the secret purpose of God." **John Calvin**

Philippians 3:3-7

"For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of

Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Galatians 1:18-24

“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.’ ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.”

“In this three years of solitude, Paul was learning the gospel of grace from Christ. In this time of seclusion, he meditated on the Old Testament scriptures, on the life and death of Christ and on the experiences of his conversion. He was forming a new theology, for all his learning of the past about works had been shattered by his new discovery of grace. He had been steeped in law, legalism and good works for salvation and it took teaching by Christ Himself to change his mind.

“Before any Christian can have an effective ministry, he must spend time learning the gospel of grace. Grace is the key to really understanding and appreciating salvation and is the great motivator for service for Christ. Since God took three years to teach Paul the doctrines of grace, how can we justify putting up new converts as elders, deacons, preachers and teachers? It takes time to be an effective instrument of grace.” Dr. Jack Arnold

The "L" of Life

1) We are NOT making this up! God's Message...God's Word

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

“A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.” Augustine

2) The Plans of God are Good...HARD sometimes...BUT Good

Deuteronomy 29:29

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Romans 8:28

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

“A firm faith in the universal providence of God is the solution of all earthly troubles.” B.B. Warfield