THAT THE TRUTH OF GOSPEL MIGHT CONTINUE

**DATE: 6/17/2015 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 1:11-24; Acts 9; Ephesians 3; Phil. 3**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we have learned

The Book of Galatians was written to combat the False Teachers …

Those who attacked the Apostle Paul / and the validity of God’s revelation given him

These false Teachers / were causing Galatian believers to...

Turn Back from their walk with Christ

You’ll remember that in his opening remarks / Paul defended his apostleship against those who had tried to discredit him - **v. 10 …**

After describing the work of the Gospel in - **v.4 …**

He then pronounced a Divine Curse on anyone who would distort the Gospel of Grace **– vs. 6-9 …**

In the remainder of this chapter … he once again takes up the issue of … his Authority and his Message …

… Defending himself against the false charges of his critics

Let’s pray and think on this thought –

***“That the Truth of the Gospel Might Continue!”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

**I. THE “CLAIM” OF DIVINE REVELATION – vs. 11, 12**

Paul was absolutely clear – the message he preached was from God

It was God’s Divine Revelation

 **v.11 - *“But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man”***

Paul says, the message I preach …

**A. ‘Did Not Originate with Man’**

We might say – *I give you my guarantee*

The word ***“certify”*** means *to declare a thing true, accurate, certain*

The Gospel Paul preached was not of his own making

It was a Certified Truth given him by the Holy Spirit

The Rabbinical teachers diluted and added to Scripture

They emphasized man-made traditions over the Truth of Scripture (unsaved people will always do this)

If the Gospel Paul preached were from man, it would have been permeated with works

Instead it was a Gospel of Grace

**It ‘Did Not Originate with Man’**

**v.12 - *“For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ”***

**B. It ‘Did Originate with God’**

In **Acts 9**, we read of Paul’s encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus

What we notice is that Jesus came directly to Paul

And gave him Special Revelation …

*Truth that was not previously known* nor could be known without the Lord’s intervention

**I Thessalonians 2:13 – *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in Truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe”***

When a person gets saved, they begin to understand the Scriptures

This is called *illumination*

**I Corinthians 2:13 – *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”***

**PAUL’S “CLAIM” OF DIVINE REVELATION**

**II. THE “COMPARISON” TO JEWISH TEACHERS – vs. 13, 14**

Paul uses his pre-conversion life to show his understanding of what Jewish Doctrine taught

**v. 13 - *“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”***

First we see …

**A. Paul’s ‘Persecution of the Churches’**

***“conversation”*** – according to Webster’s 1828 - *General course of manners; behavior; deportment; especially as it respects to a moral life style*

Paul admits 2 things:

**1.** He was religious –

***“in the Jew’s religion”***

**2.** He was **in**tolerant of Christian beliefs

***“how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”***

**Acts 8:3 – *“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison”***

**Acts 26:11 – *“And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; …***

***… and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities”***

**v.14 - *“And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers”***

**B. Paul’s ‘Passion for His Religion’**

As we read of Paul’s experience with his Religion

We notice 2 things:

**1.** He excelled – **v.14a**

***“And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation,”***

**2.** He was zealous – **v.14b**

***“being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers”***

Before his salvation, Paul was not a casual student of his faith

He was a passionate fanatic about his religion

The word ***“traditions”*** in this passage deals with 3 ideas

-- Oral Teaching of the Law

-- Interpretations of the Torah

(Torah – Pentateuch or the 1st 5 Books of the Bible)

-- Ceremonial regulations

**Philippians 3:4-7 …**

Because of his zeal for his religion, Grace was a foreign concept to Paul

The Law commanded him to weed out heretical beliefs

And as a Jewish leader of his day … he would be mandated to follow through with this practice

But one encounter with God’s amazing Grace on the road to Damascus changed Paul forever!

Grace has always been the great factor of change in the lives of countless millions

**Ill.** John Newton, the author of the famous hymn “Amazing Grace” is one of the best examples. Newton was the captain of a slave trading ship. One night in a terrible storm, he trusted Christ as Saviour. The Grace of God transformed him into a Godly pastor. His tombstone in England reads – *“John Newton, Once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy”*

**THE “CLAIM” OF DIVINE REVELATION**

**THE “COMPARISON” TO JEWISH TEACHERS**

**III. THE “CALLING” TO GOD’S PURPOSE – vs. 15-24**

How did this zealous follower of his religion and persecutor of the churches of God become the Apostle to the Gentiles?

It surely was a process … and Paul gives us an overview in **vs. 15-24**

**vs. 15, 16a, b *- “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace,”*  *“To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen;”***

**A. God’s Man was ‘Saved & Sanctified’**

-- According to God’s Grace, (unmerited favor), Saul was converted

-- According to God’s Plan, Paul would also Reveal and Preach Christ

**Jeremiah 1:5 – *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”***

This DOES NOT mean that Paul, Jeremiah, or John the Baptist (or any others for that matter) …

… Did not have to be saved

They were ordinary man (sinners) just like you and I

**Romans 3:23 *– “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”***

God does not live in time

**Hebrews 13:8 *– “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”***

He knows the end from the beginning

**Isaiah 46:10 – *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet***

***done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure:”***

Just because He claims the Truth before it happens does not advocate that some are predestined to salvation

He is just showing His sovereignty

**I Corinthians 15:10 – *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”***

**I Peter 2:9 – *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:”***

**God’s Man was ‘Saved & Sanctified’**

**vs. 16c – 21**

**B. God’s Man was ‘Strengthened’**

Here we see a chronology of Paul’s preparation for ministry

**v.16c – *“…I conferred not with flesh and blood:”***

**1.** Paul didn’t consult with others

I didn’t seek the counsel of men

He says, I went first, directly to God

Of course …

**2.** Paul spent time with Ananias in Damascus

I’m sure Ananias helped Paul understand

Most certainly pointing him to his new found Saviour

It was in this Church that Paul was Baptized

**Acts 9:17-22 …**

Then Paul says in …

**v.17a, b - *“Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia”***

**3.** Paul went to Arabia and abode with God

**Ephesians 3:2-7…**

**v.17c** - ***“and returned again unto Damascus”***

**4.** Paul then returned to Damascus

When Paul preached Christ, the Jews tried to kill him

3 yrs. after returning from Arabia, he escaped Damascus by being let down in a basket

**Acts 9:22-25 …**

Next …

**Acts 9:26 -28 …**

**5.** Paul went to Jerusalem and saw Peter – **vs. 18-20 …**

Paul then says …

**v.21 - *“Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;”***

**6.** Paul traveled to Syria and Cilicia

Tarsus was a city in Cilicia, and Antioch was in Syria

Tarsus (Saul’s hometown) is where Barnabas found Saul and brought him to Antioch

**Acts 11:19-26 …**

Barnabas understood Paul’s call to the Gentiles

**v.25 – *“Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:”***

**God’s Man was ‘Saved & Sanctified’**

**God’s Man was ‘Strengthened’**

**C. God’s Man was ‘Submitted’ – vs. 22 - 24**

God specifically set Paul apart for the Gospel ministry to the Gentiles

**1.** To Preach –**vs.22, 23**

***“And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:” “But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed”***

**I Corinthians 1:18 – *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God”***

**II Timothy 4:2 – *“Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”***

And for …

**2.** God’s Glory **– v.24**

***“And they glorified God in me”***

It was difficult at first for the believers of this region to accept Paul

They were probably hesitant, leery to trust him in the beginning

Maybe even fearful to be in his presence

But one thing motivated them to accept him

That God would get the Glory

**CONCLUSION**

God’s divine revelation will always end with God getting all the Glory

He often uses trying situations to bring this about

In the life of the Apostle Paul it was no different

We see that through his Salvation, Sanctification and even his Persecution

God used it to receive Glory

Paul’s life echoed the message of Christ that he Preached

May our lives also support the message of our lips

**THE ‘CLAIM’ OF DIVINE REVELATION**

**THE ‘COMPARISON’ TO JEWISH LEADERS**

**THE ‘CALLING’ TO GOD’S PURPOSE**

**Let’s Not Turn Back …**

**That the Truth of the Gospel Might Continue!**