

Only Jesus!
“Living the transformed life”
W/C 8th Sept 2024

False teachers had infiltrated the church and were spreading a ‘different’ gospel, a gospel that was, in fact, not good news at all. Paul remains firm in the truth that faith in Jesus alone is all that is necessary for salvation.

The false teachers (Judaizers) take a different tactic, malign Paul’s character and his God-given authority. Paul responds with a demonstration of the power of the gospel in action by sharing his own testimony.

He shares what he used to be like, how his encounter with the living Lord Jesus changed his life and now, as a transformed man, he had a God-given purpose to share the gospel with others, especially the Gentiles.

We should never underestimate the power of our testimonies. God has given us unique stories in order to demonstrate that the gospel does in fact work.

Welcome: See if you can share your testimony in under a minute. You may want to give each member a bit of time to jot down some notes.

Worship: Spend some time in worship. Plan an act of worship that is appropriate to your group.

Word: Looking at God’s word together:

Galatians 1:11-24

1. Why do you think Paul felt it important to say that the gospel he preached was not from a human origin?
2. In verse 12 Paul states that the truth was revealed to him by Jesus himself, this was divine revelation. It was as if a light was suddenly switched on and everything made sense. All he knew about the OT came together, when he encountered the missing piece, which was Jesus. Have you ever had an experience when the spiritual ‘penny’ dropped into place?

3. Why do you think Paul gives an explanation of his past?
4. What do you understand about being ‘set apart’?
5. Why do you think Paul did not consult any ‘human being’ regarding his calling to preach the gospel to the Gentiles?
6. Paul had discovered his purpose in life, his ‘calling’. Have you ever given thought to your own calling? If you have discovered what it is, are you fulfilling it?
7. Paul was the last person that anyone would’ve thought would become a follower of Jesus. Are there people you know that you place in that category?

Spend some time praying for anybody who is mentioned. Pray that they too, like Paul, might have a ‘Damascus Road’ experience.

Witness: Have you ever shared your testimony with a non-Christian friend? What was the result?

Prayer:

- Pray that God will continue to build his holy character in your life.
- Pray for the witness of the church.
- Pray for those on the mission field
- Pray for the church as activities recommence after the summer break.
- Pray for the Men’s breakfast on 14th Sept.
- Pray for those considering doing the Alpha course