Dr. Ricky Cummings  
FBC Vidalia  
Series: The True Gospel and Freedom in Christ – A Study of Galatians  
Sermon: Paul: From Terrorist to Evangelist  
Galatians 1:11-24

Paul was transformed. He was not just modified.

1. The Source of Paul’s Message

Paul’s message was derived from God’s revelation, not human imagination.

2. The Transformation of Paul’s Life

   • Pre-Conversion: Paul’s Need for Grace
     
     o His Persecution  
     Galatians 1:13
     
     “I persecuted the church violently.”
     
     “and tried to destroy it”

     o His Tradition  
     Galatians 1:14

   Paul was in a desperate situation.

   • Conversion: God’s Work of Grace  
   Galatians 1:15-16a

   • God Intervened!  
   “But”  
   Galatians 1:15-16

Ephesians 2:3-10 (ESV) ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:3-7 (ESV) ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
• “God set me apart before I was born”
  Galatians 1:15a

• “God called by his grace”
  Galatians 1:15b
  
  o Calling
  
  o Grace

• “God was pleased to reveal his Son to me”
  Galatians 1:16a

  2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

• Post Conversion: Faithfulness to Jesus
  Galatians 1:16-23
  
  o Christ now lives in us

  Galatians 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

• Christ is proclaimed by us.
  Galatians 1:17-23

  Galatians 1:24 (ESV) And they glorified God because of me.