

**Parson to Person**  
**Galatians 1**  
**(Exposition: Part 2)**

*“Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:*

*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*

*But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none*

*of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, 'He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.' And they glorified God in me" (Galatians 1).*

## **Paul—Christ Revealed in Him**

When Paul was called to Jesus, it was to a purpose. He was called and transformed as a living demonstration of the power of God—by the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I suggest that this Holy Spirit transformation is what Paul highlighted when he wrote, “*when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles*” (vss. 15–16a). Herein Paul was declaring that God called him for a purpose—to make Himself known *to* Paul and therefore make Himself known *through* Paul for the benefit of the Jew first and also for the Gentiles.

You may remember that I have often said, “God called Israel, in order to make Himself known *to her*, that He might make Himself known *through her*, for the benefit of the whole world.” This is (at least in part) the substance and purpose of their election (see Romans 11:28).

God does the same thing through us today! God has called us unto Himself, to make Himself known *to us*, and therefore make Himself known *through us*, for the benefit of all. Moreover, He makes Himself known to us, in order to make Himself known *in us*, in order to transform us into the image of His Son! Therefore, what is being accomplished *in us* in the here and now—on earth—is, in part, intended to manifest the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit within the redeemed for the benefit of the whole world.

This fact is indeed a manifest purpose for the sanctification process God is working in us today. Moreover, this is the reason Paul called believers to turn from the sinful practices of this world, and to a life of obedience in Him. We are a peculiar people—when compared to the unregenerated of this world. (Do know, we will be climactically changed once we enter the eternal.) Oh, the joy we will all experience when we are no longer dealing with the propensities of our flesh!

### **Predestination—To a Purpose**

The doctrine of predestination has been greatly abused. For many, the doctrine describes a forced salvific experience. However, each time predestination is mentioned in Scripture, there is reference to a purpose or activity. Paul wrote, *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”* (Romans 8:29). Therefore, we note that the predestination was to conformity into *“the image of [God’s] Son.”*

Of a certainty, Paul declared that those, *“He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified”* (Romans 8:30). Therefore, we learn that the predestination was a part of the foreknown plan of God. The call that brought about the justification through the washing of regeneration (offered only in Jesus) was designed to demonstrate the nature of Jesus emerging from within the redeemed believer—climaxing in glorification.

### **The Necessity of the New Covenant—Internal Transformation**

Herein we see the necessity of the New Covenant relationship God has grafted us into. He told Israel and Judah, *“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them”* (Ezekiel 36:27). Therefore, as grafted in, we (like the believing Israel of today and tomorrow) are filled with His Spirit at regeneration and are changed from *“glory to glory”* (2 Corinthians 3:18)—from temporal glory and into eternal glory.

## He Saves Us and Leaves Us Here on Earth as A Testimony of His Redemptive Work

If God did not desire to use us, by revealing His Son *to* us and therefore *in* us, we would be born again and immediately taken into glory (Heaven). However, He saves us to use us *for* His glory. Therefore, once again, may I say, God has called us unto Himself, to make Himself known *to* us, and therefore make Himself known *through* us, for the benefit of all. He makes Himself known *in* us, in order to transform us into the image of His Son! Therefore, what is being accomplished *in us* in the here and now—on earth—is, in part, intended to manifest the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit within the redeemed, in order to reveal Christ in us for the benefit of the whole world.”

As the Old Song declares:

“O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art; come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness; stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.”

It is my prayer that as God changes us from “*glory to glory*,” we manifest His presence in our lives, here and now, for His purposes, as we anticipate the eternal glory that will be the predestinated climactic result of God’s life-changing power.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul