

GALATIANS



Grounded in the Gospel & Grace



Paul: A Paradigm of Gospel Grace

—

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Gospel Definition

“The holy Creator, **God**, who was confronted with man’s rebellion and **sin**, has chosen in love to become the Redeemer and Restorer of man to God and God’s purposes, made possible by grace through faith and **surrender** to the crucified, risen King, **Jesus**.”





Proof #1: Paul's Gospel did not originate with Paul—he was a persecutor of Christ-followers (1:13-14)

Proof #2: Paul's Gospel radically changed Paul (1:15-17)

Proof #3: Paul's Gospel did not originate with the Twelve Disciples and James—Paul had delayed and limited interaction with the other Apostles (1:18-21)





Proof #4: Paul's Gospel, that radically changed Paul, brought glory to God (1:22-24)

Proof #5: Paul's Gospel was verified to be the same Gospel preached by the other Apostles (2:1-6)

Proof #6: Paul's Gospel, as well as Paul and Barnabas themselves, were accepted by the other Apostles (2:7-10)





Initial Claim

—

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

(Galatians 1:11-12)





Paul's Conversion

—

“Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And he said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’”





Paul's Conversion

—

"The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank."

(Acts 9:3-9)





Paul's Conversion

—

“So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”

(Acts 9:17)





Paul's Conversion

—

“And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.”

(Acts 9:18-19)





Proof #1

—

“For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 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.”

(Galatians 1:13-14)



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Paul, who was born "Saul," was...

- born of the tribe of Benjamin (which was why he was named "Saul") to Hebrew parents (Phil 3:5) who were Roman citizens (Acts 16:37) in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 9:11; 21:39; 22:3).
- raised in the city of Jerusalem (Acts 22:3), where he was trained by Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3-5), grandson of Rabbi Hillel—the foremost interpreter of Scripture in the First Century AD—to be a Pharisee (Acts 23:6; 26:4-5; Gal 1:14).



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- authorized with letters from the High Priests (Acts 9:1-3; Acts 26:9-12) to persecute the Church (1 Cor 15:9-10; 1 Tim 1:13)—and that with “zeal” (Phil 3:5-6)—by subjecting Christians to...
 - Imprisonment (Acts 8:3; 22:4-5; 26:10)
 - Threats of abuse (Acts 9:1-3)
 - Violence
 - Beatings (Acts 26:11; see 2 Cor 11:24; Mt 10:16-17)
 - Executions (Acts 7:58-8:1; 26:9-10).





Proof #2

—

“But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 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; 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.”

(Galatians 1:15-17)





Discipleship Costs!

—

Discipleship and Disciple-making cost Paul his...

Pride / Position

Possessions / Prejudices





Proof #3

—

“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!). Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.”

(Galatians 1:18-21)





Proof #4

—

“And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.’ And they glorified God because of me.”

(Galatians 1:22-24)





Proof #4

—

How did Paul's radical transformation
give God glory?

- It demonstrated God's mercy and patience
- It demonstrated God's sovereignty



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“But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost [sinner], Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

(1 Timothy 1:16)



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You don't have to have a testimony like Paul's to bring glory to God like Paul.

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- We all have the same story of redemption
- We are all called to the same discipleship



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“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

(Matthew 28:18-20)





Take-Away Points

(TAPs)

- Are you using your story for God's glory?
- Are you living a costly discipleship?

