

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Grace Changes Everything – Week 2 Galatians 1:10-24

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The Book of Galatians by Kyle Idleman ----- <https://bit.ly/3KE1TCC>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW

Paul's defense of his calling and his testimony of transformation form the heart of this week's passage. Before diving into the text, let's explore our own stories and the tension between living for human approval versus living for God's pleasure.

- Who was the person you most wanted to impress or gain approval from when you were younger? (A parent, coach, teacher, peer?) Looking back, how did that desire shape your choices and behavior?
- Think about a time when doing the right thing cost you someone's approval or acceptance. What made that difficult? How did you navigate that tension? What did you learn from that experience?
- If you had to describe "the old you" versus "who you're becoming in Christ" in just a few words, what would you say? What's the biggest difference God has made so far? How long after you first understood grace did you start telling others about it—and what made you want to share it or held you back?
- Have you ever felt like your past was too messy for God to use you? When you hear dramatic testimonies of transformation (from addiction, crime, deep brokenness), what's your honest reaction—inspired, skeptical, maybe even wondering if your story is "enough"? How does comparing our stories to others affect how we view God's grace in our own lives?
- In what area of your life right now are you most tempted to seek human approval rather than God's? (Social media, work, parenting, ministry, relationships?) What does that pressure feel like day-to-day?



Paul doesn't mince words in this section—he's establishing that the gospel came directly from Jesus Christ, not from human origin. His own dramatic conversion story becomes exhibit A: if God's grace can transform Saul the persecutor into Paul the apostle, grace truly changes everything.

- **Galatians 1:10:** Paul presents a stark either/or choice. Why can't we simultaneously serve Christ and consistently seek human approval? *Supporting Scripture:* John 12:42-43, 1 Thessalonians 2:4. Martin Luther wrote: *"A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one."*
- **Galatians 1:11-12:** Paul emphasizes that the gospel he preached "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." Why was it so important for Paul to establish the divine origin of his message? How does this protect us from treating Christianity as just another philosophy or self-improvement program? *Supporting Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 2 Peter 1:20-21.
- **Galatians 1:13-14 and 1:16-17:** Paul was intensely religious—persecuting the church "violently" and "advancing in Judaism beyond many." Yet immediately after meeting Jesus, he withdrew to Arabia rather than rushing into ministry. Why do you think Paul needed this time alone with God before launching into service, and what's the danger of rushing into service without first being formed by God? *Supporting Scripture:* Philippians 3:4-11, Matthew 7:21-23.
- **Galatians 1:15-16:** Notice Paul's language: set apart before birth, called by grace, revelation of the Son—and immediately tied to mission. What do these phrases tell us about God's initiative in salvation versus our own efforts? How does understanding that God chose you before you chose Him change the way you view both your conversion and your calling to share the gospel? *Supporting Scripture:* Ephesians 1:4-5, Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 8:29-30.
- **Galatians 1:18-20:** Three years later, Paul visited Jerusalem briefly, spending just fifteen days with Peter and seeing James. He emphasizes that he's telling the truth. Why does Paul stress his limited contact with the Jerusalem apostles? How does this support his argument about the gospel's divine origin? *Supporting Scripture:* Acts 9:26-28, 2 Corinthians 11:31.
- **Galatians 1:22-23:** The Judean churches hadn't met Paul personally, but "they only were hearing it said, 'He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.'" Your reputation precedes you—but God can completely rewrite your story. How does Paul's radical transformation give hope to those who feel defined by their past? **Supporting Scripture:** Acts 9:21, 2 Corinthians 5:17.



- **This week, examine your motives:** Before making decisions, pause and ask: "Am I doing this to please God or to please people?" Keep a simple journal of what you discover. If you're serving in church or community, honestly assess: Am I doing this for God's glory or for recognition? For approval or out of love? Ask a trusted friend to help you process.
- *"God revealed His Son to me... in order that I might preach Him."* Grace received must become grace extended. Who is God calling you to share the gospel with?