

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 2/8/26

Sermon:

Ted Rastatter

Text:

Galatians 1:13-24

Questions: Ted Rastatter

In Galatians 1:13–24, Paul defends both his apostleship and the gospel by leaning into the fact that he was an unlikely convert; once a violent persecutor of Jesus followers, now *“preaching the faith he once tried to destroy”* (23). Against false teachers who questioned his authority and added works of the law to the gospel, Paul points to his dramatic conversion as evidence that his message and mission came directly from God’s grace, not human influence. His life demonstrates that **genuine conversion produces genuine new life**: a new heart with new desires, a new trajectory that reorders allegiances under Christ’s lordship, and a new mission centered on proclaiming Jesus to all nations. Paul’s story shows that Christianity is not moral self-improvement but supernatural transformation through encountering the risen Christ.

1. Why does Paul highlight his past as a persecutor instead of minimizing it when defending his apostleship?
2. How does Paul’s conversion story illustrate the difference between moral reform and true spiritual rebirth?
3. In what ways can zeal for tradition, culture, or nation unintentionally blind us to God’s wider redemptive purposes?
4. What evidence in Paul’s life shows the three marks of genuine conversion: a new heart, a new trajectory, and a new mission?
5. If someone examined your life, what signs would point to a real encounter with Jesus that changed your desires, direction, and purpose?

Take some time to pray along with Paul. As a group pray together using Paul’s prayers in Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21.