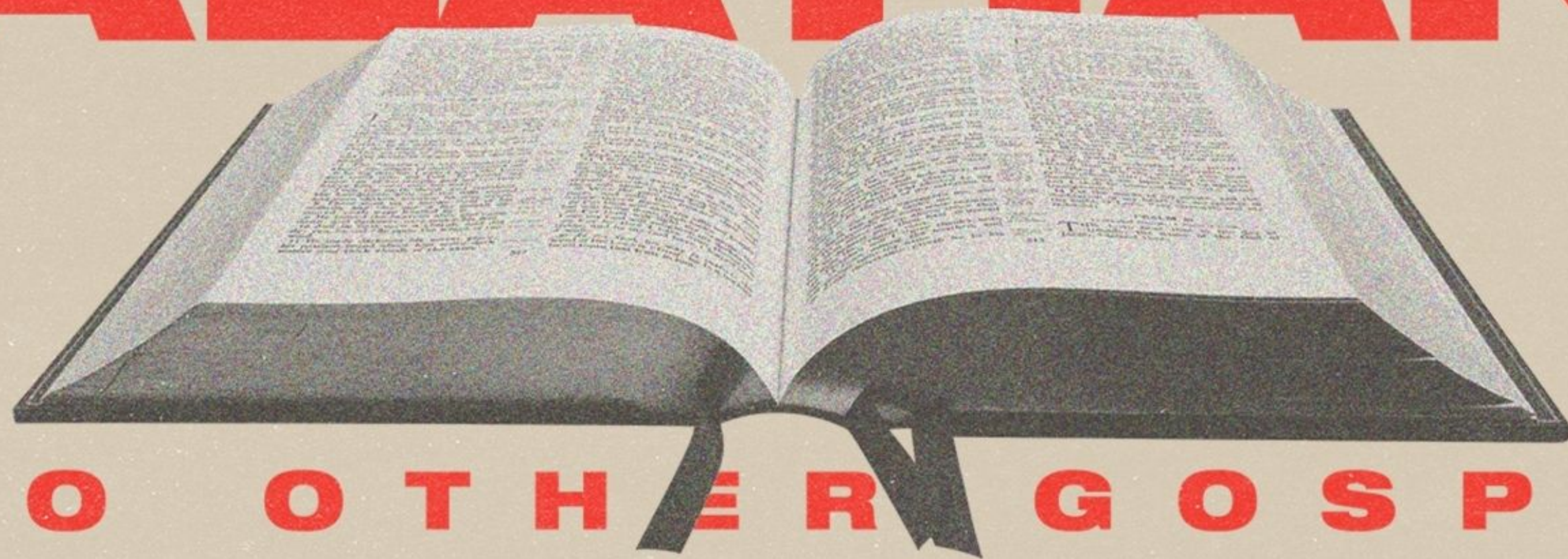


# GALATIANS



NO OTHER GOSPEL

# The Power of God's Transforming Grace

**GALATIANS**



**NO OTHER GOSPEL**

# Galatians 1:11-24

Galatians 1:11–12 - For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

# Galatians 1:11-24

Galatians 1:13–17 - For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

# Galatians 1:11-24

15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

# Galatians 1:11-24

## Galatians 1:18-21

18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

# Galatians 1:11-24

## Galatians 1:22-24

22 I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; 23 but only, they kept hearing, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.” 24 And they were glorifying God because of me.

# Introduction

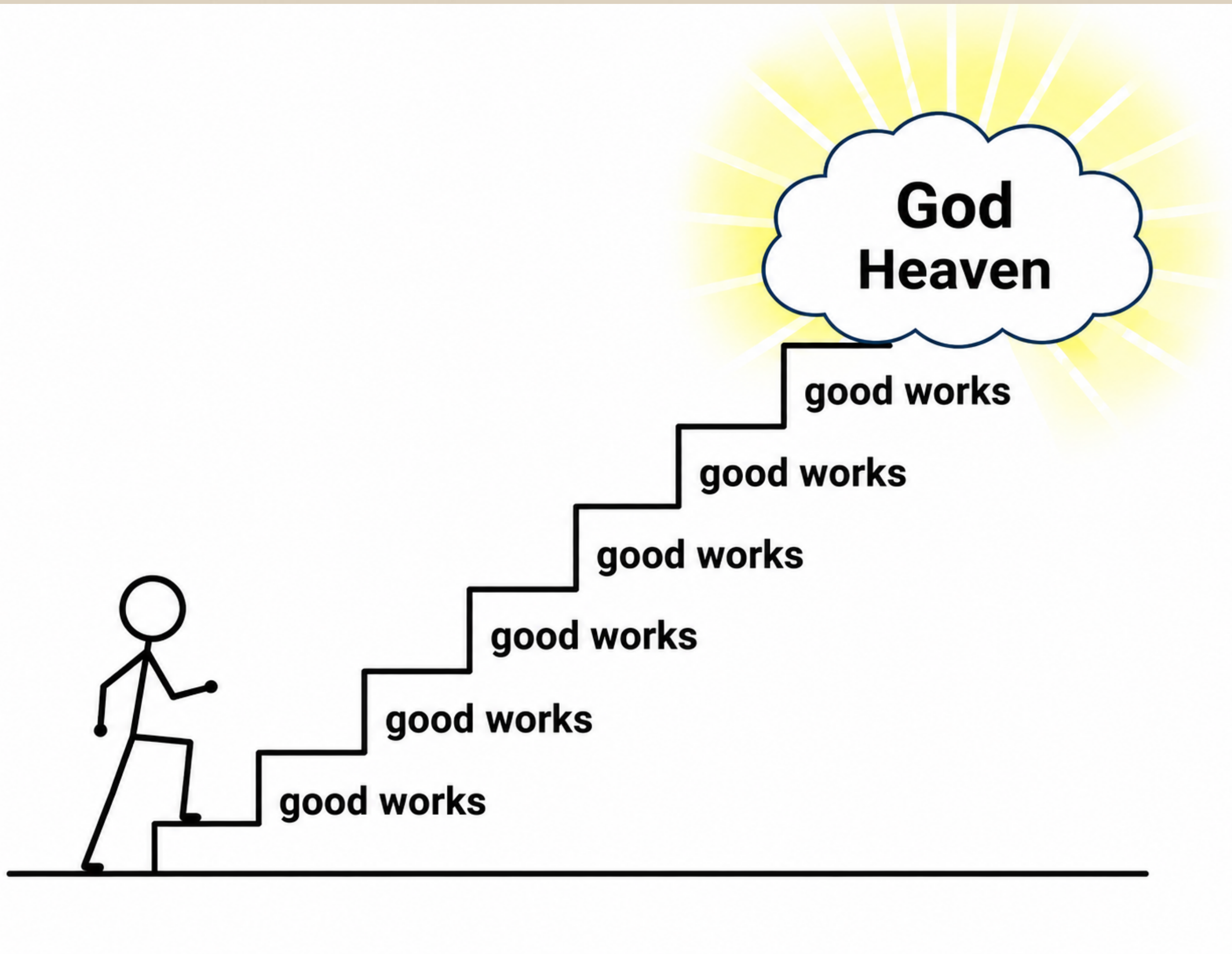
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# Introduction

- v. 11 - I would have you know
- v. 11- The gospel that I preached was not according to man.
- v. 12 - I didn't receive it from man
- v. 12 - I didn't learn it from man
- I received it by revelation of Jesus Christ.

# Introduction

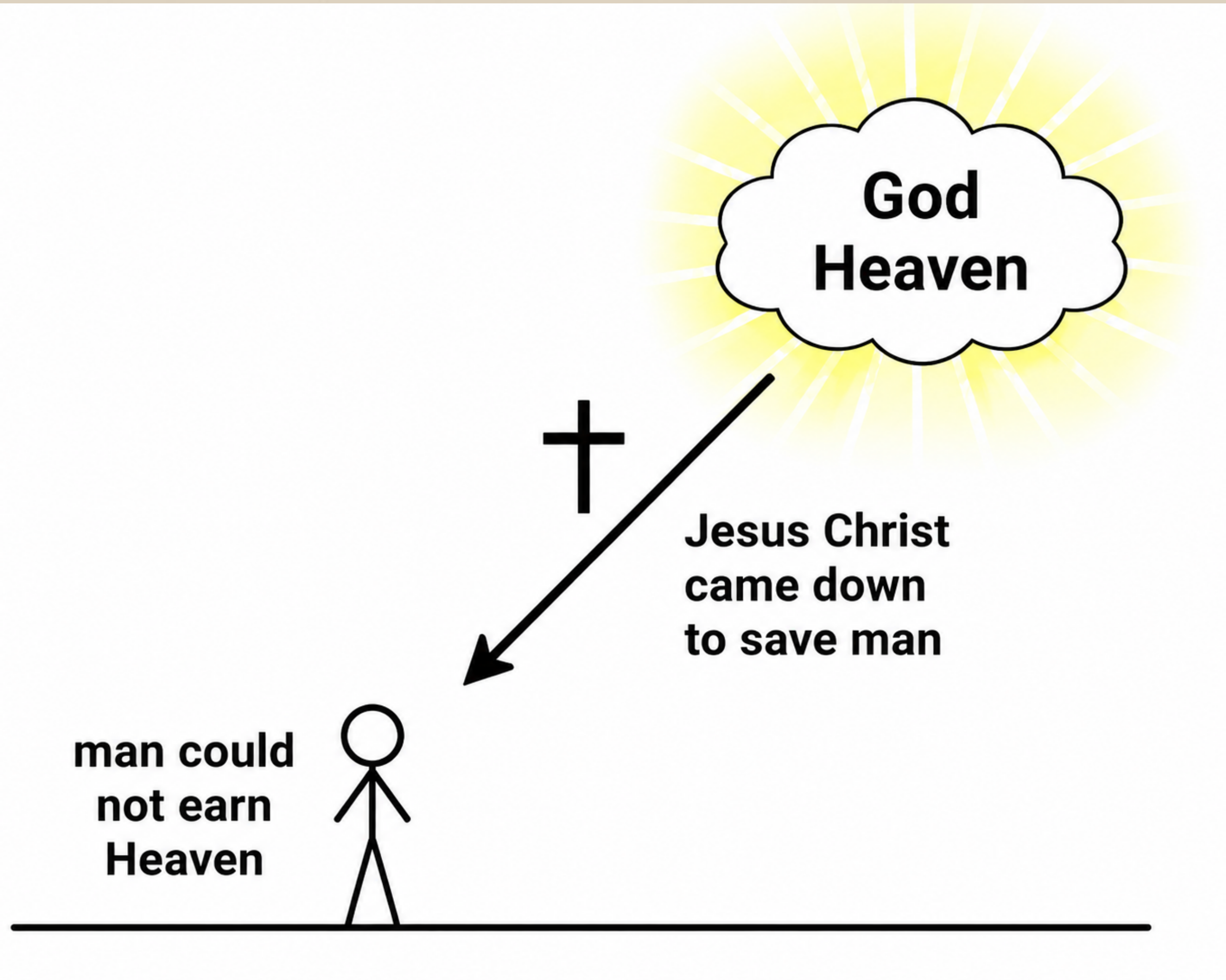
- Is the Apostle Paul just another “kook” who saw an angel?
- Note that several times in Galatians he will report that he checked his revelation with the elders.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ is unique. He does the work.
- As a rule, religions and religious beliefs invented by humans always have a works component.



# **GALATIANS**



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# I. Your Past Cannot Stop God's Purpose

Galatians 1:13–17 - For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

# I. Your Past Cannot Stop God's Purpose

- God can redeem the most unlikely person.
- Paul violently persecuted the church and tried to destroy it.
- He was more zealous about it than his peers
- It was not the Gospel, it was religious traditions.
- This is not a guy “most likely to be a Christian”, let alone an Apostle and write a good portion of the NT

# I. Your Past Cannot Stop God's Purpose

- Do not write yourself off.
- Do not write others off either.
- God changes and transforms people in a supernatural manner.

# Galatians 1:15-17

15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

# II. God calls us before we realize it.

- v. 15 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace
- Young girl at P&P. "God is the best!"
- God's purpose for Paul's life existed long before Paul knew it.
- Jer. 1:5; Psalm 139; Eph. 1
- Your calling begins with God's initiative, not your qualifications.
- God knew His purpose for you before you knew Him

# III. Conversion is more than forgiveness

- v. 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles
- He does not say merely “to me”, he says “in me”.
- Christianity is not just learning truths about Jesus.
- It is Christ being revealed and formed within us.
- Is Jesus only information to me?
- Do people see Jesus in me and do they see Him coming out of me?

# Galatians 1:16b-24

16 ... I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) 21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

# IV. Seasons of Hiddenness

- Paul did not immediately become a public minister.
- He spent time in Arabia and Damascus before Jerusalem
- There are believers that want a ...
  - Platform before preparation
  - Influence before Intimacy
  - Ministry before maturity
- Often obscurity before being used publicly

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# Galatians 1:11-24

## Galatians 1:22-24

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## V. Humility and Praise to God

- v. 22 - I was still unknown by sight.
- v. 23 - He who persecuted us is now preaching the faith.
- v. 23 - He is preaching the faith he tried to destroy
- v. 24 - And they glorified God because of me.

**V. 24 - “Paul’s testimony did not make people admire Paul - it made them worship God”**



**In closing, compare the Saul of Tarsus with the  
Apostle Paul in verse 24**



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# Summary

- **Paul's story teaches that the gospel is not self improvement.**
- **It is divine transformation.**
- **A persecutor becomes a preacher**
- **God took an enemy and made him a son.**
- **He takes a life headed in one direction and completely redirects it for His glory.**

# The Lesson

When God reveals His Son in a person, their past no longer defines them, their calling begins to unfold, and their life becomes a testimony that causes others to glorify God.

**Man**

**God**



**Jesus**

**Sin  
Death  
Judgment**

**Eternal Life  
No Judgment**

