



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Gospel That Changed Everything

Passage: Galatians 1:11-24

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Paul has been defending the one true gospel against those who wanted to add to it. Now, he turns to his own testimony to show the Galatians what the gospel had done in his life. That raises an important question for us: What can the gospel do in a person? Not merely what can it teach us or how can it improve our behavior, but what can Jesus Christ do in a life? As we look at Paul's story, let's consider not only what the gospel did for him, but what that same gospel can do for us.

I. The Gospel Paul Received (Verses 11-12)

Paul didn't invent the message of the gospel, and he didn't receive it secondhand from another apostle. Jesus Christ revealed it to him.

The gospel is not man's idea about how to get to God. It is God's message about what He has done to save us.

The gospel tells us something our pride doesn't particularly like to hear: we cannot save ourselves. We are sinners who need a Savior, and Jesus Christ has done for us what we could never do for ourselves.

You don't have to wonder whether the gospel is enough for you. It doesn't begin with what you can do for Him; it begins with what Jesus Christ has already done for you.



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II. The Man Paul had Been (Verses 13-14)

The word conversation refers to Paul's former way of life. He is saying—You know what I used to be like. You've heard what I did.

The man God used to preach the gospel across the Roman world never forgot who he had been. He knew the people he had hurt and the damage he had done. But he knew that if Jesus Christ could save him, it was only because of the grace of God.

Your past may explain where you've been, but it does not have to determine where you're going. Paul's past did not put him beyond the reach of God's grace, and yours doesn't either.

III. The Life God Gave Him (Verses 15-24)

Paul didn't clean up his life and then persuade Jesus to accept him. Christ met him while he was headed in the wrong direction.

You don't have to become a different person before you come to Jesus. You come to Jesus because you need Him to change you.

The gospel doesn't merely forgive our past; it gives us a new purpose. Paul had been trying to destroy the church, but now he was telling people about the Christ he once opposed. His direction changed because his heart had changed.

Paul's life had become a testimony to what God could do. The change was so remarkable that when people heard about it, they glorified God.



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Conclusion: Paul had not changed himself. God had changed him. The man who once tried to destroy the faith was now preaching it. That is the power of the gospel. What needs to change in you? What have you excused by saying, “That’s just the way I am”? If you have never trusted Christ, come to Him. He died for your sins, rose again, and is able to save you. And if you already know Him, do not settle for simply remembering what the gospel did for you years ago. Let it continue changing your life today. Your past is not too much for God. Paul’s was not. May God work so clearly in us that others can look at our lives and say, “Look what the Lord has done.”



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