

# Sermon Notes: Delivered As Received

*Galatians 1:11–24*

**MAIN IDEA:** What man *invents*, man can revise. What God *delivers*, we only pass on.

Verses 11-14

## God changes who you are, not just what you do

*“the traditions of my fathers” (v. 14)*

Paul was not just religious, he was formed by what was passed to him. His zeal was real, disciplined, and pointed in the wrong direction. The gospel did not improve him. It interrupted him and made him someone new.

*“The gospel is not a doctrine of improvement but of death and resurrection.”*

— J. Gresham Machen

Verses 15-16

## God called you before you were you

*Echo of Jeremiah 1:5 “before I formed you in the womb I knew you”*

Set apart before birth, called by grace, not resume, revealed through encounter, not education. Paul’s violent past was not a detour God worked around. It was part of the path God had already mapped.

*“The glory of the gospel is that its content is not left to our creativity. We are stewards of a deposit, not inventors of a message.”*

— John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*

Verses 17-23

## God shapes you in secret before he sends you in public

No platform. No announcement. For three years Paul was invisible and God was not pausing his calling. He was deepening it. When Paul finally emerged, what he had could not be manufactured: a gospel tested, internalized, and now being lived out. Then verse 23 we see that Paul preaches the faith, delivered unchanged.

*“Paul’s retreat to Arabia was not an escape from his calling but a deepening of it. The desert has always been the school of the prophets.”*

— F.F. Bruce, *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*

Verse 24

## God gets the Glory

*“And they glorified God because of me”*

The man who had once tried to destroy the faith was now living inside it. His transformation was real, visible and undeniable. All that happened to Paul and through Paul pointed people to a single place, faith, love, and trust in Jesus Christ.