

THE GRACE OF GOD

Galatians 1:11-24

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. GOD'S GRACE WORKS LONG BEFORE WE CAN SEE EVIDENCE FOR IT
2. GOD'S GRACE TAKES ITS TIME DEVELOPING US EVEN AFTER IT COMES TO US
3. GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS EVERY PART OF OUR STORY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. Paul makes the point in Galatians 1:11-24 that he is the least likely candidate to choose Christianity. Can you recall what were some of the ways Christianity was offensive to Judaism? How can you use this reality to demonstrate the uniqueness and truth of the gospel to modern people? How is Christianity offensive to modern Western morals and beliefs?
3. Paul didn't choose to follow Jesus because he liked all the teachings of Jesus. He chose to follow Jesus because he came face to face with the Truth and couldn't deny it. Are there any aspects of the Bible that you have found difficult to accept? How can you (or have you) overcome this reluctance to fully accept God's Word in light of the truth of the risen Christ?
4. One of the main ideas this week was that God's grace takes its time developing us. If you have found yourself in a time of difficult waiting on God, what have you found as good practices to sustain your faith? What are some of the benefits you can get out of such experiences? Can you share any examples?
5. God often intentionally develops us through trials and tribulation. However, our own poor choices and actions may also result in difficult experiences. How can you determine if your troubles are the result of your sin or God allowing trials to work out character and faith in your life? Could it be both?
6. Paul's persecution of the church was his greatest shame. And yet, God could even use Paul's hate-filled past to glorify Himself (Gal. 1:23-24). This shows us that God's grace transforms every part of our story, even the parts we are most ashamed of. How does God's grace do this?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: There is no part of your life that cannot be transformed by the grace of God.