

**BOOK OF GALATIANS  
THE CHANGE THAT CHRIST BRINGS!  
GALATIANS 1:13-24**

**Introduction**

*There is a story circulating around about an old Hillbilly and his son, who went to the big city for the first time and were amazed at all the new things they saw. The one thing that truly amazed them the most was an elevator. They watched as an elderly woman, with wrinkled skin, and a walker step into the elevator. The door closed, and in a few minutes the door opened again. Out stepped this beautiful woman. The farmer turned to his boy and said, "Son, wait right here. I'm going home to get your mama, and run her through that thing!"*

He was convinced, but mistaken, about the change that elevator could make on an individual.

Thank God that's not the way it is when Jesus changes us! There is a song in our hymn book that says, *"What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, since Jesus came into my heart!"*

And that's the truth isn't it! **Jesus makes a change in the life He enters!**  
Things just **cannot remain the same where Jesus has taken up residence!**

There is a Southern Gospel song entitled *"HE MADE A CHANGE"* sung by *The Cathedrals* that says:

*"He made a change in the way that I'm walking,  
He made a change in the way that I'm talking,  
Old things passed away, Behold everything's new.  
He made a change in the life that I'm living,  
I'm born again, set free, finally forgiven,  
If he can make a change in me, He can make a change in you."*

This morning, I want to look at **the Apostle Paul's conversion to Christ**. When you study Paul's life, you come to understand that **he was radically, dramatically, and wonderfully changed!**

Most of us are familiar with what Paul writes in *2 Corinthians 5:17* about the change that takes place:

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*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

Paul knew what he said to be true **because he personally experienced it!**

This man who was once a passionate, murderous, persecutor of the Church, became one who was a passionate follower of the Christ Who changed Him.  
**What kind of change does Christ bring to our lives?**

**I. CHRIST CHANGED PAUL'S LIFE FROM A STRICT JEWISH RELIGIONIST TO A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN CHRIST! (Vs 13-16)**

**Before Paul became born again, he not only was very religious, but he knew what he believed! Now understand that He even thought he was a Bible believer, but he was lost!**

Paul rehearsed his religious history on several occasions. Before a crowd at Jerusalem in *Acts 22:3-4*, Paul declared that he was a **Jew, brought up in the city of Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel...he was taught according to the perfect manner of the Law...he was zealous toward God...and he persecuted this way (followers of Jesus) unto the, binding and delivering into prisons!**

Also we can see what he said about himself in **Philippians 3:5-6**—*"Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the Law, a Pharisee. Concerning zeal, persecuting the Church, touching the righteous which is in the Law blameless."*

Before Paul met Christ **he had been raised a very religious man!** Paul was **very learned in the Law of God** and the **Jewish religious practice!** In fact, **he knew the Law of God!** After all, he was a Pharisee! The Pharisees **knew WHAT they believed** and could readily tell anybody **WHAT they believed.**

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**If being religious could save anybody or if strictly practicing your religion could save anybody, Paul would have been a saved Jew because he was a Jew's Jew!** But being saved isn't about being religious or knowing the Bible—**It is about coming to know Christ!**

*Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*

There in **Philippians 3:7-8!** Paul speaks of how he threw ALL of what he had been in the past and ALL of what he had been relying on to get him to heaven on to the dung hill and exchanged it for Christ! *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but dung, that I may win Christ."*

Paul said in *2 Timothy 1:12*—"I know **WHOM** I have believed."

It is not **WHAT** you know, but rather **WHOM** you know and believe that makes the difference of where you will spend eternity!

Before I came to Christ years ago, I could readily tell you **WHAT** I believed, but I was lost! Up until age 8, the Church I was brought up in was a Southern Baptist Church. From that point forward it came out of the SBC and became an independent, fundamental, bible-believing, Baptist Church.

I grew up in Church and had the privilege to hear some great teaching and preaching and my head was full of Bible knowledge!

But then, one day **CHRIST** got hold of my heart and life and **CHANGED** this knowledgeable, religious, lost guy into a **BORN AGAIN BELIEVER** on **CHRIST!**

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On February 17, 1971, I placed my faith and trust in Christ alone for my salvation! Since that time I have been able to say with Paul, *"I know **WHOM** I have believed."*

*CHRIST CHANGED PAUL'S LIFE FROM A STRICT JEWISH RELIGIONIST TO A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN CHRIST!*

**II. CHRIST CHANGED PAUL'S PURPOSE FROM BEING AN AGGRESSIVE PERSECUTOR OF BELIEVERS TO BEING AN AVID PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL!**

Several times in the book of Acts it is recorded how Paul gave his personal testimony about his conversion experience before his fellow Jews and before King Agrippa, Felix, and Festus!

Before Paul came to know Christ, **He was zealous about stopping this spreading movement that embraced Jesus Christ!** In fact, **Paul thought that he was doing God a favor in arresting believers!** There are few who ever worked harder for a cause!

But, **the problem with Paul's life at that time was that he was lost!** In *1 Timothy 1:13*, Paul described his life in the time before he met Christ: *"Who was before a **blasphemer**, and a **persecutor**, and **injurious**, but I obtained mercy, because **I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**"*

But then he had a **head on collision with Christ** on the Damascus Road! Let's turn to **Acts 22:1-21** and see **one of these instances where Paul gives his personal testimony!**

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**Talk about repentance, we see it very clearly in the Apostle's life!** In present day vernacular—The Apostle Paul *"did a 180"* in his life!

He went from **Persecutor Of Christ** to **Preacher For Christ!**

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He went from **Being A Persecutor Of Christians to Being Persecuted As A Christian!**

He went from **heading into Damascus with HIS purpose to heading into Damascus for GOD'S purpose!**  
(Acts 26:16-23)

**III. CHRIST CHANGED PAUL FROM ONE WHO HAD WALKED IN HIS OWN WAY AND IN THE WAY OF OTHERS TO ONE WHO WALKED IN CHRIST'S WAY!**

**A. We See Paul Had Walked In His Own Way!**

*Acts 26:9-10– “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 which thing also I did in Jerusalem...”*

**B. We See Paul Had Walked In The Way Of The Chief Priests! (Acts 26:10, 12)**

*Vs 10– “having received authority from the chief priests...”*

*Vs 12– “Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests.”*

**C. We See After His Conversion That Paul Walked In The Way Of Christ! (Acts 26:16ff; Galatians 1:15-17)**

*Vs 16– “...I have appeared unto thee for this purpose...”*

*Vs 17– “...the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee.”*

*Vs 19– “...I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.”*

*Vs 22– “Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day...”*

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**Conclusion**

Paul was **radically, dramatically, and wonderfully changed!**

When Christ comes into a life, He still brings about a radical change!

What kind of change has Christ brought about in YOUR life?

Now understand that none of us have the exact same Damascus Road experience that Paul had in how we came to Christ?

Nevertheless we come to Christ the same way! Through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ! (Acts 26:20)

Christ wants us to be changed from whatever we are to what He wants!