

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Bible Study Series: Living by Faith – Galatians

Lesson 6. Arabian Bible College – Gal. 1:13-17

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Paul testifies of his “former conduct” as a Pharisee, wherein he lived to hunt Christians and exterminate the Church, but then affirms the truth that God set him apart and called him to preach Christ among the Gentiles. To undertake that calling he secluded himself in a deserted place for 3 years and was prepared there for a life of service and sacrifice for Christ Jesus.

- I. Former Conduct – vs. 13-14
 - A. Advancing in Judaism – Phil. 3:5-6
 1. All law and no grace
 2. Legalism allows no room for grace
 3. Grace in the Old Testament
 - a. Noah – Gen. 6:8
 - b. Moses – Exodus 33:12-17
 - c. Israel at the Red Sea and in the Wilderness – Jer. 31:2
 - d. Judah – Ezra 9:8
 - e. The Promised Savior – Zechariah 12:10
 - f. Christ demonstrates grace in the OT in the Sermon on the Mount – “Blessed are..”
 - B. Persecuting the Church
 1. Persistent continual intent to harm – Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:10-11
 2. Destroy it – to extinguish completely
 - C. Zealous in these pursuits
 1. “Now a man in that mental and emotional state is in no mood to change his mind, or even to have it changed for him by men. Only God could reach him – and God did!” – Stott
 2. Zeal requires:
 - a. Knowledge – Rom. 10:2
 - b. Repentance and godly sorrow – 2 Cor. 7:11; Rev. 3:19
 - c. A desire for good things – Gal. 4:18
 - d. A desire for good works – Titus 2:14
- II. Calling and Preparation – vs. 15-17
 - A. God’s Elective Purpose – vs. 15-16
 1. When it pleased God – Deut. 7:7-8; 1 Sam. 12:22; 1 Chron. 28:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:5-6, 9, 11
 2. Separated from before birth – Rom. 9:11-13; Isa. 49:1; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:13-17
 - a. Pharisais (set apart to God)
 - b. Apharisas (set apart by God)
 3. Called – Jer. 1:4-10; Amos 7:14-15; 1 Sam. 5:4; Rom. 1:1; 2 Thess. 2:13-14
 - a. Through Grace, to be a witness – 1 Peter 2:9
 - b. To be saved – to reveal His Son in me
 - c. To serve – that I might preach Him among the Gentiles
 - B. Comparison of vs. 13-14 and 15-16 (Stott)
 1. I persecuted, I tried to destroy, I advanced in Judaism, I was zealous for traditions
 2. God set me apart, God called me, God was pleased to reveal His Son to me
 - C. The Place of Preparation – vs. 17
 1. Arabia – near Damascus – 2 Cor. 11:32; Acts 9:23-30
 2. Away from men, secluded, that I might learn to preach Christ
 3. Immediately and for 3 years (see vs. 18)

Cross References

Philippians 3:5-6

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Genesis 6:8

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Exodus 33:12-17

12 Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” 14 And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” 17 So the Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”

Jeremiah 31:2

2 Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness— Israel, when I went to give him rest.”

Ezra 9:8

8 And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.

Zechariah 12:10

10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Acts 8:3

3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Acts 9:1-2

9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2

and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 22:4-5

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, 5 as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.

Acts 26:10-11

10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Romans 10:2

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

2 Corinthians 7:11

11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Revelation 3:19

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Galatians 4:18

18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

Titus 2:14

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

1 Samuel 12:22

22 For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

1 Chronicles 28:4-5

4 However the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. 5 And of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

1 Corinthians 1:1

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

Ephesians 1:5-6

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:9

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:11

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Romans 9:11-13

11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Isaiah 49:1

49 "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.

Jeremiah 1:5

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Luke 1:13-17

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the

spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." 7 But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. 9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. 10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

Amos 7:14-15

14 Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. 15 Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, And the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

1 Samuel 5:4

4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the Lord. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.

Romans 1:1

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2 Corinthians 11:32

32 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

Acts 9:23-30

23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. 24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. 25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket. 26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the

disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. 28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. 29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. 30 When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

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