



BE FREE

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

BE FREE

DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 2

Have you ever gone to a new town, excited to spend some time exploring, and discovered to your horror you have gone down a one way street in the wrong direction? You don't know what happened, everything seemed fine. You thought you were going the right way, until you saw traffic coming straight for you. You quickly recognized your error and turned around as quickly as possible and proceeded in the opposite direction.

That is essentially what happened in the life of Saul on the road to Damascus. He was going where he thought he should be going - to arrest and persecute more followers of Jesus. This new movement was threatening his established way of life. He was a zealous Pharisee who was raised to follow the law and he had worked hard to earn a place of prominence and righteousness. But God had other plans. On this dusty road, God literally stopped Saul in his tracks and as a result of that dramatic encounter, Saul totally turned his life around. He would now walk in a completely new direction. Galatians 1:23 tells us, "... the man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." What a dramatic turnaround!

This turning from one way of doing life toward another is what we call repentance. The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means to "change your mind." When we repent our whole orientation towards life changes; it turns from sin to God. **Saul changed his mind about who Jesus was and it changed his life completely.** He now saw that his attempts at salvation by self-effort were meaningless and he was in need of the Messiah, Jesus, to save him.

Once he bragged and took great pride in his ancestry and law keeping, but he would soon call it garbage. (Philippians 3:8) His security, his foundation is now rooted in Christ, not his accomplishments or heritage.

1. How did coming to Christ “change your mind” or outlook on life?

2. Saul was an archenemy of the early church, but as a recipient of God’s grace he became an Apostle and one of the primary writers of the New Testament.

Is there anyone you know that seems beyond the reach of God’s grace? If so, write their name here:

Commit to pray that God would open their eyes like he did for Saul.

3. In Acts 9:15 God reveals that Saul was his chosen instrument to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, and to kings, as well as the people of Israel. Does it shock you that God would pick Saul? Does this encourage you about your ability to be used by God?

4. Paul had a very dramatic conversion. How would you describe your conversion? Was it dramatic or more of a slow process?

Have you told your testimony to anyone? Summarize how you might tell your story.

Weekly Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing me to be your servant. Thank you for revealing yourself to me and redirecting my life. My life is no longer about me; my talents, my goodness, my heritage, or my accomplishments. It is all about you Jesus! I want to live my live to bring honor and glory to Your name.

