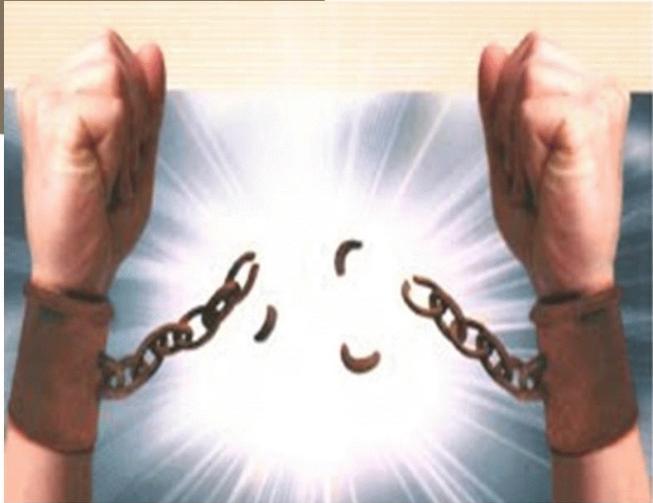


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# ALIVE IN CHRIST

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Letter to the  
GALATIANS

WEEK 2

## Day 1

**Study:** Galatians 1:11-24

**Reading:** Ephesians 4:6-16, I Corinthians 12:27-31

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

**W**hen a football team wins the Super Bowl, every member of the team and all the coaches get a ring. Even the guy who only saw two minutes of playing time all season gets a Super Bowl ring. Whether a person is a star quarterback or a fourth string linebacker, every player plays an important role in the team's success and that is why everyone gets a ring.

Today, we are going to see that God has given all of us a role in His ministry. Some of us will have more visible roles and others will have roles that are performed behind the scenes. God has a specific purpose and role for you to fulfill each day of your life.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Paul wanted to let the Galatians know that he didn't make up the Gospel himself, nor did he hear it from another man. Paul heard about the Gospel directly from God who revealed it to him (vs 11-12). The Galatians had heard his testimony when he had been in the region and had established the churches, but he wanted to remind them that he, at one time, was following the strict rules that were set down by the Jewish leaders. In fact, he reminds them that he was looked up to by many as an example to follow in keeping the laws of the Jews (vs 13-14). All this changed when Paul met the Lord on the Damascus road. Paul told the Galatians that God had set him apart for His service the day that he was born. Though Paul didn't deserve it, God showed him the way of salvation, and called him to preach the Gospel unto the Gentiles.

Paul emphasized the fact that he didn't immediately go sit under the teaching of Peter and the other disciples after he had been converted. Instead, he went to Arabia, a region that stretched east from Damascus down to the Sinai peninsula, and spent three years studying the Old Testament and spending time with God. He stated this fact to them so that they couldn't accuse him of receiving his beliefs from the apostles, which were men, though they preached the same Gospel (vs 15-17).

It seems that the false teachers had planted the idea that Paul was just following the false teachings of the disciples of Jesus. The Judaizers must have inferred that they follow God's Word while Paul followed the words of men. Paul was not trying to disassociate with the apostles, but he wanted to let his readers know that he only spent 15 days in Jerusalem with Peter and James. He didn't see any of the other disciples at that time, so he wasn't a follower of the disciples. He then told them how he began his missionary journey and how he went out preaching and teaching the Gospel that God had revealed unto him.

Paul carefully laid out the fact that he was a messenger that was sent directly by God. He wanted the Galatians to know that what he told them was the truth. The Judaizers were trying to discredit him and the Gospel, but he wanted to let them know what the facts were (vs 18-24).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What has God set you apart to do with your life? Do you daily seek to do what He wants you to do? Paul stated that from birth, God had planned for him to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. God also has a plan for your life. Even before you were born, God knew you and formed you in such a way so that you can accomplish things for Him. God has given you all the gifts and abilities that you need to serve the Lord right now. Many people think that they need to wait until they are a certain age or have a certain amount of training before they can do what God wants them to do, but that is not the case. God wants to use you right now and has equipped you for His service. Take a moment to think about what talents and abilities God has given you to use for Him. Ask yourself how you are using what He has given you. If you can't think of any talents or abilities, ask one of your family members or close friends how they think you can serve the Lord.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for equipping you to serve Him.*
- \* *Ask God to show you how He wants you to serve Him today.*

### **Thought for the day**

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## ***Day 2***

**Study:** Galatians 1:11-12

**Reading:** 2 Peter 1:12-21, Luke 1:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

What very important declaration about the Gospel did Paul make in verse 11?

What point do you think he was trying to get across with this declaration?

How did Paul receive the Gospel message (vs 2)?

Why was it important for Paul to declare this about his message?

### **2 Peter 1:12-21**

What was Peter going to constantly remind the believers of (vs 12)?

---- See verses 5-7

Why do you think Peter thought this was the right thing to do (vs 13)?

Why was Peter feeling a sense of urgency to make sure the believers were grounded in the truth (vs 14-15)?

What did the disciples not do (vs 16)?

What had the disciples seen (vs 16)?

What was Peter referring to in verses 17 & 18?

*\*\*\*Peter, James and John were on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13).*

How did that experience affect Peter and the other disciples (vs 19)?

What should we pay close attention to (vs 19)? Why?

What is important to understand about prophecy (vs 20)?

How did the Prophet's write (vs 21)?

Why is this so vital to your Christian faith?

### **Luke 1:1-4**

How can we trust what was written in the Bible (vs 1-3)?

Why did Luke decide to write this letter to Theophilus (vs 3-4)?

### **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

What did Paul want Timothy to continue in (vs 14)?

How could Timothy have confidence in what he had learned (vs 14)?

What were the Scriptures able to do (vs 15)?

Where did Scripture come from (vs 16)?

*\*\*\*Individual writers wrote with their style and personality, but the Words were breathed out by God. This is referred to as "inspiration."*

What is the Word of God profitable for (vs 16)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What will be the end result of those who give themselves to the Word (vs 17)?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

## *Day 3*

**Study:** Galatians 1:13-14

**Reading:** Acts 7:54-8:3, Philippians 3:1-7

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

What was "Judaism" (vs 13- ESV)?

*\*\*\*Over the centuries, the Jews strayed from the Law and the purpose of the Law that God has passed down through Moses. They developed their own rules and regulations over time that were a distortion of God's purpose for giving the Law. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders many times in his teachings. Paul grew up in the religion of Judaism and devoted himself to it.*

What did the leaders of Judaism do to the church (vs 13)?

How active was Paul in Judaism (vs 14)?

### **Acts 7:54-8:3**

Why were the Jewish religious leaders so upset at Stephen (vs 54)?

---- See verses 1-53

Did Stephen let the opinions of the Jewish leaders sway his ministry (vs 55-56)? Explain.

How did the religious leaders respond to Stephen (vs 57)?

What did the religious leaders do to Stephen (vs 58)?

Who was present at the stoning of Stephen (vs 58)?

How was the attitude of Stephen towards his accusers so much different than the attitude of the accusers towards Stephen (vs 59-60)?

How does this reveal who was truly following God?

What was Saul's attitude about the death of Stephen (vs 1)?

What happened to the church after Stephen was martyred (vs 1)?

What did the believers do for Stephen (vs 2)?

What did Saul do after he witnessed the death of Stephen (vs 3)?

What did the contrast between the believers and the Judaizers reveal about their religions?

### **Philippians 3:1-7**

What did Paul say about repeating himself in his writings (vs 1)?

How is this similar to what Peter said (see yesterday's reading)?

What did Paul want the Philippians to look out for (vs 2)?

Who was he referring to?

*\*\*\*Paul was talking about the Jewish religious leaders who attacked others like dogs would attack prey. They placed a great emphasis and focus on outward acts, specifically circumcision.*

How did Paul describe the church (vs 3)? Why?

Why did Paul say he would be the first one saved if salvation depended on keeping the Jewish religion (vs 4-6)?

How did Paul describe his view of the church (vs 6)?

How did Paul's attitude about the Jewish religion change after he met Christ (vs 7)?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

## ***Day 4***

**Study:** Galatians 1:15-17

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-9, 26:12-18

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

What had God done for Paul before Paul was born (vs 15a)?

What do you think this means?

How does this reveal the grace of God (vs 15)?

What did God do for Paul (vs 16)? Why?

What are some things that Paul said he didn't do (vs 16-17)?

Why do you think he states this?

*\*\*\*Paul was revealing that his message was not one that he was convinced of by others. Though it would not have been wrong for him to learn from others, he was expressing his apostolic authority because he had been taught directly by God.*

Where did Paul go after he was converted (vs 17)?

*\*\*\*Paul traveled to be alone in Arabia. It appears it was here that he spent a great deal of time with God, preparing his heart for the future that God had for him.*

### **Acts 9:1-9**

What was Saul eager to do (vs 1)?

What did Saul ask for (vs 2)?

What was one of his main desires (vs 2b)?

What happened while Paul was near Damascus (vs 3)?

What did the voice ask Paul (vs 4)?

Whose voice was it? What did the voice tell him to do (vs 5-6)?

What happened to Saul's eyes and for how long (vs 8-9)?

### **Acts 26:12-18**

*\*\*\*Paul was speaking before King Agrippa when he was being held as a prisoner at Caesarea Maritime.*

Who had given Paul permission to arrest the believers (vs 12)?

What did God say it was hard for Paul to do (vs 14)? What does this mean?

*\*\*\*A goad was a long rod used to prod oxen as they were pulling plows in the field. Though oxen would not like being prodded and would try to raise their legs to kick the prod away, their effort would not be successful*

Why do you think Paul asked "Who are you, Lord?" (vs 15)

*\*\*\*Paul clearly believed in God before this point and thought he was doing God's will by persecuting the Christians. It was at this time that he met Jesus Christ and Jesus transformed his life.*

What did Jesus say He had appointed Paul to do (vs 16)?

Who was God sending Paul to (vs 17)?

Why was Paul being sent (vs 18)?

What does this reveal about the salvation of the Gentiles?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

## *Day 5*

**Study:** Galatians 1:18-20

**Reading:** Acts 9:10-31

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

How many years after his conversion did Paul go to Jerusalem (vs 18)?

Why was Paul stating this fact?

*\*\*\*We know that Paul first went to Damascus, then traveled to Arabia before he traveled back to Damascus. We don't know how much time he spent at each place, but we do know that his theology and mission was not passed down to him by the apostles in Jerusalem, but was given directly by God. Paul is placing an emphasis on the calling he was given by God to reach the Gentiles with the gospel without having to force them to convert to Judaism.*

Who were the only two apostles that Paul saw (vs 18-19)?

Why do you think that Paul stated that he wasn't lying (vs 20)?

### **Acts 9:10-31**

Who did God call to be a help to Paul (vs 10-11)?

Why was Ananias not sure about what God was telling him (vs 13-14)?

What had God chosen Paul to do (vs 15)?

What was part of God's plan for Paul's life (vs 16)?

Why do you think it was important that Ananias overcame his fear and obeyed God (vs 17)?

What was the result of Paul's meeting with Ananias (vs 18-19)?

What did Paul do shortly after he arrived at Damascus (vs 20)?

Why were the actions of Saul both amazing and confusing (vs 21-22)?

What happened after Saul had been preaching for many days (vs 23)?  
Why?

How did God spare the life of Paul (vs 24-25)?

What did Saul do when he arrived at Jerusalem (vs 26)?

*\*\*\*In Acts 9, it appears he went right from Damascus to Jerusalem, yet from Galatians we know that he went to Arabia and came back to Damascus before going to Jerusalem. It seems best to understand that shortly after his conversion he traveled to Arabia. It was after his return to Damascus he escaped the plot to kill him and traveled to Jerusalem.*

Why did the disciples have a hard time accepting Saul (vs 26)?

Who helped Saul (vs 27)? How?

Why was the help of Barnabas extremely important to Saul?

What did Saul do while in Jerusalem (vs 28-29)?

How did the believers in Jerusalem help Saul (vs 29-30)?

What does this reveal about the important role that every believer plays in the kingdom of God?

*\*\*\*Though we do not know the names of the followers of Christ who spared Saul's life in Damascus and Jerusalem, we understand that they were just as important to God's mission as Saul was.*

How was God building His church (vs 31)?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

## ***Day 6***

**Study:** Galatians 1:21-24

**Reading:** Acts 13:1-3

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:5

Where did Paul travel after he left Jerusalem? (vs 21)

What relationship did Paul have with the Judean believers at that time (vs 22-23)?

What was the response of the believers who had heard about Saul (vs 24)?

How can the conversion of Saul be a great encouragement to you today?

### **Acts 13:1-3**

*\*\*\*In Acts 9:30 we are told that Paul was taken to Caesarea and then sent off to his home town of Tarsus. Tarsus was in the region of Silicia and Antioch was in the region of Syria. We are not told what happened to Paul or how long it was from the events of chapter 9 until we read about him again here in chapter 13.*

Where are Saul and Barnabas serving the Lord (vs 1)?

What spiritual gifts had God given to the men mentioned in verse 1?

What did prophets and teachers do?

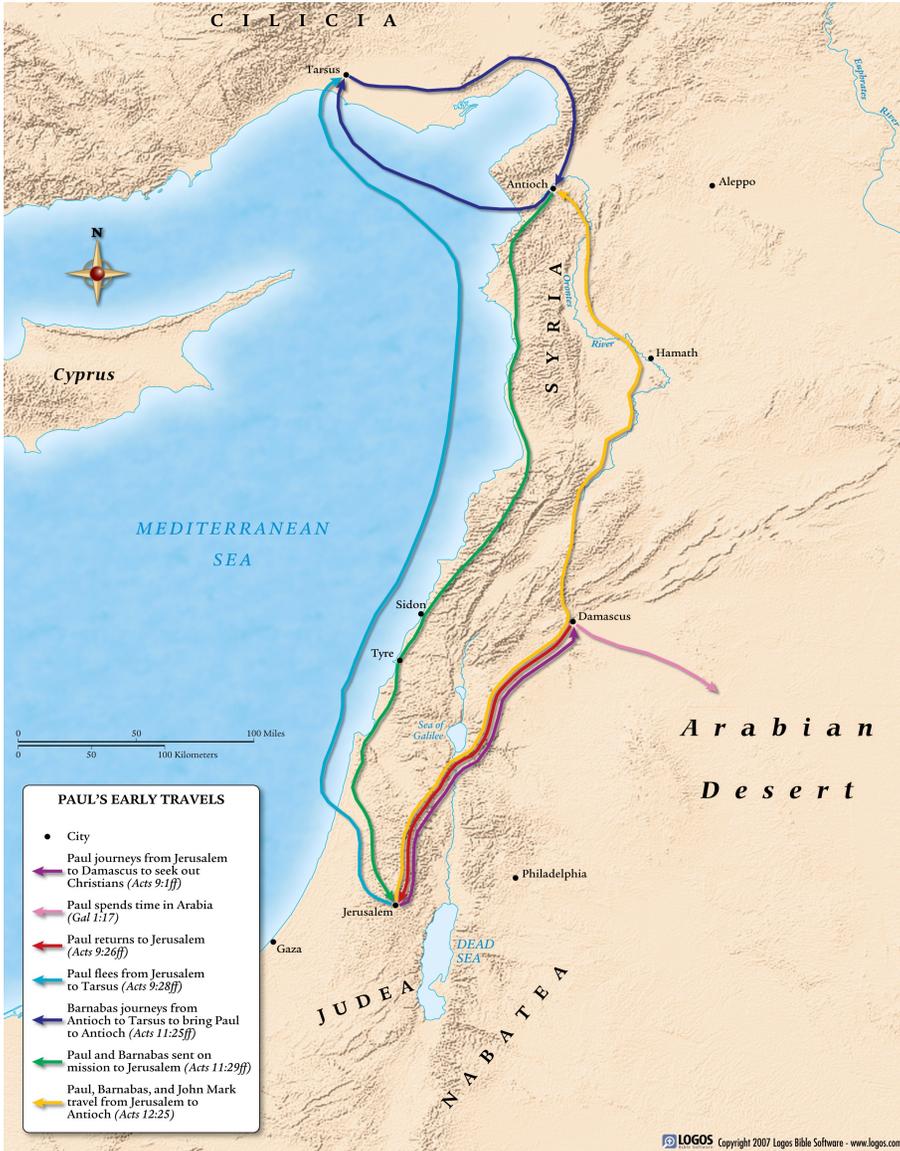
*\*\*\*An obvious answer is that they prophesied and they taught. A prophet wasn't necessarily one who received new revelations from God when it came to doctrine, but they were given the ability to proclaim and declare what God had written. They were also given visions about practical actions or future events. Teachers are similar except their job was to help others understand the truth. Prophets declared the revelations from God and teachers were given the ability to help understand what the proclamations meant to their daily lives.*

What did the Lord reveal to the prophets and teachers (vs 2)?

When did God reveal this to them (vs 2)?

What can you observe from this?

What did the prophets and teachers do for Paul and Barnabas (vs 3)?



## Memory Verses

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.