



Week 2

Message Outline

Where Are You Going?

Galatians 1:13–16

Intro

Welcome/ Series Opening

Sometimes our lives feel like we're in a spin cycle.

- We get up in the morning.
- We go to work.
- We go home.
- We go to bed.
- We get up in the morning.
- We go to work.
- and so on and so on
- We're making the same turns we've been making all our lives.
- We may feel like we have no true direction
- and no true purpose in life.
- It's like we're just killing time until it's time to go home, our eternal home.

If that describes your Christian life, this Scripture may help you today.

Galatians 1:13–16 NLT

13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it.

14 I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him

16 to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.

- For those of us in the spin cycle,
- we can find some good news in this passage where Paul shares his story.

Paul’s Story

Paul shares about His Former Way of Life.

- Paul was a Jewish leader.
- He had advanced farther in his education than most people his own age.
- He was zealous, on fire, for the Jewish way of life.

Paul was an enemy of the early church.

- He could not stand the church or what it taught.
- Acts 7:58 tells us he was present at the stoning of Stephen, a leader in the first church.
- Here in this Galatians passage he says that he persecuted the church (v.13).
- Acts 8:3 says, “But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.” (Acts 8:3)
- Here he says he tried to destroy the church (v.13).
- He went into Christian’s houses, dragging them off to prison.
- He hated everything Christianity stood for
- He tried to wipe Christianity off the face of the earth
- Then Jesus was Revealed to Him.

- In verse 16, Paul simply says Jesus was revealed to him and in him.
- Acts 9 gives us more detail into the conversion experience of Paul.
- Damascus Road was a direct experience with the person Paul was prosecuting.
- He stood face to face with Jesus.
- Jesus revealed Himself to Paul and Paul was never the same again.
- He came to know who Jesus really was.

Jesus became Paul's Savior and Lord.

Paul began Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- He says Jesus was revealed in Him so that he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- Talk about a drastic change.
- One day he's going to Damascus to persecute Christians.
- One day he's going to break up the church.
- A few days later he's out on the street preaching about the One he had tried to destroy.
- But God had a plan and a purpose for Paul, to be a preacher and a missionary.
- And that's what Paul did for the rest of his life,
- through good times and bad
- When things got tough and his life was hanging in the balance,
- Paul never returned to who he used to be.
- Paul died preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

True Christians have a similar experience.

- Most of us weren't as bad as Paul before we started a relationship with Jesus and gave our lives to Him.
- We probably didn't arrest and kill Christians.
- But all of us lived contrary to the ways of God.
- We all have sin and sin is equally bad in God's eyes.

And like Paul all Christians had a life altering experience when they met Jesus Christ.

Meeting Jesus Changes Everything

- When someone really meets Jesus, things are never the same.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 NIV

16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- Their hearts are made new and their lives began to be transformed.
- Christians have a purpose in life to serve God, bring Him Glory,
- and to be a part of His mission of reaching the World with His love and message.

What can we learn about our own lives from this testimony of Paul?

We learn there are

3 THINGS WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT.

You Need to Think About Where You've Come From

- One of the old sayings we're all familiar with is "Don't Forget Where You've Come From."
- When someone finds success, people will tell them "Don't forget where you've come from."
- They say this to make sure they remember who they were before they moved on.
- They know it's not good to forget who you were.

Christians, Don't Forget Where You've Come From.

- We're so blessed to now have Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- But it hasn't always been that way.
- We were once lost and didn't even know it.
- We were once under the wrath of God and didn't even know it.
- We were once ready to bust hell wide open and didn't even realize it.
- If it weren't for the grace of God,
- we'd still be where we were before.
- It's missions month here at TC
- and we can't help but think about how the..

The World is Full of People who are Where You Once Were.

- **People are lost.**
- **Their lives are missing purpose.**
- **They don't have the hope of heaven**
- **Or the power of God to transform their lives.**
- **They live life contrary to the ways of God and they don't seem to care.**
- **They want nothing to do with Jesus**
- **and they want nothing to do with His church.**
- **But don't forget where you came from.**
- **The only thing that makes you different from them is Jesus Christ.**
- **You used to be just like them.**
- **And somebody thought enough of you to tell you the Good News.**
- **Remember where you used to be**
- **and look at these people with the eyes of Jesus.**
- **Just like He looked at you.**

Think about where you've come from.

You Need to Think About What God Has Done for You.

- **You're not who you used to be.**
- **You're a blood-bought,**
- **born again,**
- **Holy Spirit-filled child of the Living God.**
- **God saved you from the way you were living.**
- **No matter what you used to be**
- **or who you used to be,**
- **you're now redeemed**
- **You're now forgiven**
- **You're now made clean**
- **You're now Jesus'**
- **and He bought you with the price of His life**
- **and by taking all of the wrath of God in your place.**
- **God put His plan of redemption into action to save you thousands of years before you were born.**

Romans 5:8 NLT

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- **He did this so that you could share in His grace of forgiveness and eternal life.**
- **God wanted you to be saved**
- **and if you have given Jesus your life, you sit here today,**
- **SAVED.**
- **Rescued**
- **Redeemed**

Let that soak in for a minute.

- **You were lost and dying in your sin.**
- **But God already had a plan to rescue you.**
- **Even before you were born,**
- **He set that plan in motion so that you could know Him and love Him back.**
- **Your life's circumstances,**
- **the turns you've made,**
- **Helped you to see who God is and what he has done for you.**

Pastor Clint's life example

- **I have to remind myself that God was working in my life in so many ways.**
- **You need to think about what God has done for you.**

You Need to Think About Where You're Going.

- **God did all of that to bring you to Him,**
- **He has a purpose for you now.**
- **He has a mission for you!**
- **If all He wanted to do was get you saved,**
- **He could have just called you home right then.**
- **But He left you here.**
- **So there must be more to God's plan for you than just getting you saved and into heaven.**
- **This is where we get back to what I shared with you earlier**
- **So many Christians are in the spin cycle of life.**
- **Doing in the same old thing**

- Day in and day out
- Lacking real direction
- We don't want that to be us
- We don't want Transformation Church to be that.
- As your pastor I don't want that to be you.
- So we must ask ourselves

What am I here for?

- Does that question ever cross your mind?

What could be more important than knowing God's purpose for your life?

- Paul says His purpose was to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- What's His purpose for you?
- How do you find out?
- Immerse yourself in His Word.
- Ask God what He wants you to do for him.
- Put yourself in a position so that God can use you.
- Many of us say we want to be used by God,
- but we don't open ourselves up to be used.
- We don't make room in our schedules
- We don't make room in our relationships.
- We don't make room in our finances.
- We often are asking for God to use us,
- as long as it doesn't take us out of our comfort zone.

One thing I have learned is God rarely uses people in extraordinary ways in their comfort zones.

Here are a few examples of people who God used in extraordinary ways but they couldn't stay in the comfort of...

- David - left his flocks to God to battle. (*1 Samuel 17:20*)
- Esther - went in front of her husband the king to save her people. (*Esther 5:1-3*)
- Peter, James and John - left their fishing nets and followed Jesus (*Matthew 4:18-22*)
- This is only a few examples,
- but the evidence of God calling people out of their
- mundane,

- Ordinary
- comfortable lives
- to live out God's mission for them is woven all through the bible.
- Close (Go + Be Slide)
- Today let's evaluate ourselves.

Are we doing life in a spin cycle?

- And if so, let's make the decision today to stop settling and to ask God to show us our mission.

Let's commit to let God have...

- our comfort,
- our normal,
- our ordinary.

Let's commit to listening to Him

- and moving when He says move,
- loving when He says love,
- giving when He says give.
- Share our story and the good news to everyone He has said to share it to.

Invitation/Challenge

- Life has no purpose without a personal relationship with Jesus.
(Transition to the Gospel.)

This week's challenge is to Go+ Be on mission and to pray about giving in faith to missions.

Use this card to ask the Lord how you should give to Him and His mission through faith

promise giving.

FAITH PROMISE

**“...When your faith is increased
we shall be enlarged by you
to preach the Gospel in
the regions beyond...”**
II Corinthians 10:15-16

MY FAITH PROMISE

TC TRANSFORMATION CHURCH
Reach - Love - Transform

FAITH PROMISE

Promised Each Week

<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="text"/>

OTHER AMOUNT

Give to Missions here.

Transformation Group Reflection Questions

1. Is your/my life in a spin cycle?
2. What is God's purpose for me?
3. Does my everyday life have evidence of me living my purpose? Is their fruit?
4. What can we learn about our own lives from Paul's story?
5. Where have I come from since I met Jesus?
6. What has God done for me since?
7. Where/What is God calling me to?
8. Is my comfort or anything else standing in the way of me living out God's mission for my life?