**“God’s Call and a Praiseworthy Life”**

Going deeper in Galatians 1:10-24

**INTRODUCTION**

The Apostle Paul has just finished greeting the churches in Galatia. He then turned to sharing his deeply heartfelt anguish over those who are teaching that the salvation in Jesus Christ was not enough. Those who have been teaching this have criticized the Apostle Paul and because of the ultimate importance of justification because of grace and through faith Paul starts to answer some of these criticisms so the churches can be thinking about how central this grace is to our life in Jesus Christ.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 10 Do you think I am saying this to persuade men or God? Am I seeking popular applause? If I were trying to get popular applause, I would not be a servant of Jesus Christ. 12 This is not a message I received from a guy on the street, nor was it something I got from some great teaching, but it came directly from Jesus Christ. 13 I am sure you heard of my former life in Judaism, how I severely persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. 15 But when it pleased God, who had good intentions for me from birth, He called me through His grace. 16 He revealed His Son to me so that I might bring good news to non-Jews and this did not come from any human being. 17 Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to confer with those who were apostles before I was, but instead I went to Arabia and later I returned to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went to Jerusalem to compare notes with Peter and remained with him for fifteen days. 19 Except for James, the Lord’s brother, I saw none of the other apostles. 20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. 21 Later I went on to Syria and Cilicia. 22 I was still an unknown face to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only heard this report: “The man who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy. 24 And they were praising God because of me.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. New believers in these churches are being drawn away by some who are calling them to return to some Old Testament laws which ends up denying the atoning work of Jesus Christ. These people who are leading them astray have been critical of the Apostle Paul and the message of justification by grace through faith. As you read between the lines with these verses what are the criticisms that they are leveling against the Apostle Paul?

2. Why would it be important that the message of justification by grace through faith came directly from Jesus rather than humanity?

3. What was Apostle Paul like before his encounter with Jesus?

4. How might his opponents use this?

5. When was the last time took time to be with God apart from those you know (Saudi Arabia)? Why do you think this might have been important for the Apostle Paul?

6. Why were the churches praising God according to verse 24?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for the changes that He has made in your life.

\*Thank Him for His grace with the changes that still need to happen.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to His voice today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord Jesus in His grace changed the Apostle’s life to a life worthy of praise. Out of His grace the Lord designed you for a praiseworthy life. How will that affect how you live this week?