

Galatians 1:1-16

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—²and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

¹⁰Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

¹¹I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man,

Characteristics of Missionaries

1. Missionaries understand their _____.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the

pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Three things to do to find God's will:

1. Offer our bodies as

_____.

2. Stop conforming to this

_____.

3. Renew our _____.

- 1 John reminds us over and over if we fail to love

_____ we fail to love
_____.

2. Missionaries are _____ about their work.

- _____ brings about passion.

3. Missionaries understand the _____ in which they live.

I Chronicles 12:32a

men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...

4. Missionaries are committed to the miracles of

_____.

- A miracle to overcome your _____.
- A miracle of a _____ _____.

- A miracle of _____.
- A miracle of _____.

Let us become refugees.
Let us leave our native land,
Our comfortable and sacred places...
Our terra firma-twice-tamed and twice-removed.
Our well-worn maps and boulevards
Carved deep into accustomed soil.
And let us follow Jesus into the wilderness
of love, mapless and untouched...
Let us become servants to a people and
To a Land we've never known.
But we say the cost is too high.
We deserve the best in life.
Red carpet treatment.
Gated communities and gated churches.
Just think who we are.
We are a chosen people, a Holy nation,
A royal priesthood,
A people belonging to God.
But for a reason beyond ourselves.
That we may declare the praises of the
One who called us out of darkness
Into love's marvelous light.
For once, we were no people,
But now we are God's people.
Once we had not received mercy,
But now we have received mercy.
Let us, like Jesus, set aside our crowns.
Let us leave our status and comfort behind.
Let us pour ourselves out
And live as refugees in this new, uncharted land.
What wondrous love!

-Sally Morgenthauer, *Exploring off the Map*

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