



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 29-30, 2020

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Galatians 1:11-24

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

The Apostle Paul's defense of his gospel message was based on the fact that it was not man's gospel, but a gospel received directly through a revelation of Jesus Christ Himself. Paul provides details of his former life as a persecutor of the church as evidence that his message could not have come from himself. Rather, it was Jesus Christ who had set Paul apart to preach the gospel to the gentiles, all to the glory of God!

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to know that the gospel that Paul preached did not come from Paul, but rather was revealed to him by Jesus Christ Himself?
2. The Apostle Paul was formerly known as "Saul of Tarsus", a violent persecutor of the Church. Why is it important that you know how evil Paul was before his conversion to Christ?
3. In v.15 & 16, we read "*But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...*" In spite of his

evil and violent nature, Saul of Tarsus was set apart by God before he was born and was saved by grace so that he would preach the gospel to the gentiles. What does this tell you about the love, grace, patience, and plans of God?

4. After his miraculous conversion, Paul spent three years *alone* in Arabia, before visiting with the Apostles Peter and James. Even after three years apart from other believers, Paul's Gospel message remained pure and was the same message Peter and James understood and preached. How does knowing this help you trust that Paul's message came from God? (Think about something you may have learned 3 years ago. How well do you remember it today?)
5. Our passage ends with the believers in Jesus hearing about a former persecutor of the church who was now preaching the faith. How would you respond if you learned that the leader of North Korea or Iran or China became a true believer and follower of Jesus Christ? Do you think such a scenario would ever be possible? Why or why not?