

Revealing What's Within

*But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,
To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen, ...*

Galatians 1:15,16

In the first chapter of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians, he gives a brief background of his life before his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. His zeal and blind devotion to his religion elevated him to a position of authority, which he used to persecute the infant movement of the early Christian Church. By God's grace Paul is converted to the faith he sought to destroy, and is called by God to reveal Jesus the Son of God, who now dwelt within him. Paul's message contained nothing about himself as he stated "for we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, (2Corinthians 4:5). His body was just a vessel that contained the Spirit of the living God, and he wanted the heathen to see the Christ within him.

Paul's conversion and calling reveals God's purpose for everyone who surrenders to the Lord Jesus. Our conversion might not be as dramatic, but it is every bit as important. God has called every one of us by His grace that we might reveal His Son to the people the Lord places in our life. We glorify Him by fulfilling His purpose in our lives. God struck Paul down as he was on a path that was contrary to the purpose for which he was created. It was by God's grace that Jesus spoke to him, and from that encounter Paul's life was forever changed. Then the Lord revealed to Paul that he was to be a witness to the Gentiles. The ramifications of Paul's obedience to the calling reverberates throughout the ages and is the catalyst seed that would eventually lead to our own conversions. We may not ever address large crowds or travel great distances, but every one of us has a commission from God to reveal His Son. As Paul became all things to all men that he might gain some for the kingdom of God, so must we. It is important that the fruits of the Spirit are present in our life so as we can best represent the Lord. If our life shows love, joy, peace, and the other six fruits, it will help to gain the ears of those in need of the Savior. People's lives are devoid of true love, joy and peace until they find the Source of those great blessings, so as recipients of these fruits, our purpose is to reveal the indwelling Christ in us. Even when someone rejects our witness, a seed is planted and prayerfully it will continue to speak and eventually bring forth fruit.

As with all packages, the box is not as important as the item it contains. The packaging hides the value of what is inside. When the outside is peeled back, the value of the contents can then be realized. By God's grace, may we peel back our exterior, and bare our hearts of love revealing to others the Christ within us.

Ekis

J.