

## Community Group Discussion Guide

## Week of May 5, 2019

**This Week's Focus:** Paul defends his apostolic authority through telling his predisposition and God's predestination, resulting in gospel proclamation.

This Week's Text: Galatians 1:13-24

"[15] But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, [16] was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles..."

## Galatians 1:15-16a

## Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text.
- How does the context and historical background of this letter provide assist us in our understanding of Paul's words in this passage?
- Paul begins this section of his letter by bringing up his former life. Why would it be important for him to share that with the churches in Galatia?
  - How does sharing from our past bring glory God?
  - Have you ever shared your testimony with family members, friends, or co-workers who don't know
    Christ?
- Have there been times you've struggled with self-righteousness in your life? How did you come to recognize it?
- How should being in community with other believers help us to avoid falling into the trap of selfrighteousness?
- Paul says that he was "set apart before [he] was born" and "called by His grace," what encouragement does this bring to you?
- Why should God's predestination and calling give us a posture of humility rather than arrogance?
- What does it communicate about God that he was "pleased" to reveal his Son to Paul, someone who persecuted the church violently?
- Paul came to faith through a direct revelation and personal encounter with Jesus Christ. How should we respond to others today who claim to have direct messages from God? Where does our ultimate authority come from?
- What is the end goal of all we do? (v.24)