



Daily Reflections

October 4, 2016

Scripture

Galatians 1:13-24

Brothers and sisters:

You heard of my former way of life in Judaism,
how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure
and tried to destroy it,
and progressed in Judaism
beyond many of my contemporaries among my race,
since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions.
But when he, who from my mother's womb had set me apart
and called me through his grace,
was pleased to reveal his Son to me,
so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles,
I did not immediately consult flesh and blood,
nor did I go up to Jerusalem
to those who were Apostles before me;
rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days.

But I did not see any other of the Apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.

(As to what I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.)

Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

And I was unknown personally to the churches of Judea that are in Christ;

they only kept hearing that "the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

So they glorified God because of me.

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's text, Paul presents to the Galatians his "credentials." He is not embarrassed to let them know that he once killed Christians and persecuted the Church viciously. And then Christ entered his life. Paul experienced the forgiveness of Christ and surrendered completely to Christ. Paul questions the weak in faith Galatians: If he with all of his sins could break completely with his past and take on a totally new life in Christ, why could they not do the same? A good question for each of us to ponder as well.

Food for your Journey

We can be truly ourselves and free if God lives in us. This is what it means to be God's creature -- not to be a self-made, self-standing individual over against God, but to exist from God and through God. We are creatures precisely in that we live in God and God lives in us. We are sinful creatures when we fail to recognize this and live as if we were self-made, self-standing individuals. Being a new creature, redeemed from sin, is in this regard similar to being a creature as God originally created us to be. It's to live in Christ and to have Christ live in us. United with Christ, we live in God, and God lives in us.

--Miroslav Volf, *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace* (Zondervan, 2009), 149.

Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Your Grace is absolutely amazing. You have forgiven and called a wretch like me! Help me to live up to my calling, Lord. Amen.