



SERIES: We Are Free December 2022-January 2023

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Saturday, December 10, 2022

Scripture: Galatians 1:11-12

TITLE: I Am Not Ashamed

What causes you to second-guess the Bible? Is it the opinion of others? Is it tradition? Is it the desire to be accepted? Or do you stand firm on what the Bible says? Today, there is greater pressure than ever to change what the Bible says to fit into society, culture, families, schools, and the workplace.

But should we change how we understand the Bible? Paul has the answer for us in Galatians 1:11-12.

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul says for I would have you know. This is a very strong Greek word that means to make certain. Today we would say, "let me make this perfectly clear to you." What is it that Paul is trying to press? The fact that the Gospel message that he has been preaching is not his own; it's not something he copied from a book. It's not something he heard from another Apostle. No, it was not according to man.

You see, the Gospel is completely contrary to what we would create. If we were to create a religion, as many have done before, it's always about what you can do. It's all about what you can do to earn a reward, Salvation, paradise, escape, or something in between. That would be man's version of the gospel. And again, this is what Paul was trying to combat legalism.

And then he continues in verse 12 by saying he did not receive it from any man, nor was he taught it.

Paul was saying look, this is not something I was taught by man. You see, just like today, various interpretations, teachers, and resources become equivalent to the authority of the Word of God. The Jews had the Torah, but they also had additional writings and traditions. Paul was saying ,look, this has nothing to do with traditions. This has nothing to do with my favorite teacher. Instead, he says this Gospel message was from Jesus Christ himself.

In Acts chapter 9, Paul is on Damascus road. He was getting ready to do some more persecution of the church, but Jesus appeared to him, and it changed everything.

Many people have claimed revelation from God but rarely do they attempt or succeed in proving it. But Paul is different. He's not content with making the claim.

If you have been saved by Christ, you are no longer a slave to the world. You are a slave to your savior. By God's grace, we do not work for God's approval. We work from His approval.

This frees us to speak openly and to live free no matter who or what is around us. Paul reminds us we are free.

It's true that we are not apostles like Paul. We have not seen a risen Christ. But Paul did. He received the Gospel message from Jesus. Therefore Paul's words can be trusted. The Gospel changed everything for Paul. He was willing to be rejected by man all for the glorious acceptance of God. Will you do the same?

In Romans 1:16, Paul writes,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

I am not ashamed. I will stand firm on this truth. Stand firm on the Word and on this true Gospel. It is freedom to all who receive it.