



**SERIES: WE ARE FREE: A STUDY OF GALATIANS**

**SPEAKER: Dan Coke**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

**Scripture: Galatians 1:21-24**

**Title: You Are A Living Testimony Of Something!**

Galatians 1:21-24 (ESV):

Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God because of me.

I want to make an honest confession. I grow a beard because I hate shaving. I hate taking the time to shave. I hate how my face feels after shaving. But I do it anyway. Why? As pastor, I realize I represent more than myself. Now, my qualm with shaving is a silly illustration, but hopefully you’re able to grasp the concept that we are not just individuals, but belong to someone and we represent more than just ourselves.

Teenagers have a hard time with this one. They like to think of themselves only as individuals. I like to play a game with them to show how ridiculous this notion is. I’ll show them how an encounter with one kid from another family, school or sports club impacts how they think about everyone else in association with them. It’s the same for us as Christians.

In verse 23, Paul says the people were saying, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” What a testimony! People were saying Paul was a changed man. He used to be violent towards the church, but now he preaches to grow the church. I want that kind of testimony. And I know you do to. The problem is, what often gets shared about us is rarely what we want to be shared. We get caught off guard. We are met with an unexpected circumstance, and we forget that we are called to represent someone other than ourselves. Has that ever happened to you? A better question is: Who’s saying what about you?

It’s humbling and convicting to think what others might be saying about me whenever they encounter me in a moment of weakness. Oh, to be watchful, ready, alert and sober-minded always. Friends this is why you ought to be in prayer always and faithful to read the Word of God.

Now, there are some who claim to be Christian who think very little about how they represent Christ. They could care less about casting a dark shadow over the Gospel and bringing shame to the name of Christ. In reality, they may be a Christian but they might not be. Why would I ever suggest that person in this category might not be a Christian? Well, they show no evidence of Christ’s transforming power at work in their lives. They are not grieved by their sins and they

have little regard for others. Paul said after the power of God changed his life, “And they glorified God because of me.” That’s the testimony I want.

And, if we are to have testimony like Paul’s, then we must make the final verdict evident to all. It should be clear that we represent Christ. Our speech, our lives, everything for His glory. Declare war on your sin. Refuse to be taken captive by it. And, when you sin, repent, seek forgiveness. Humbly seek restoration when possible in your relationships. In little things like this, you show that Christ’s power is at work in you.

We don’t live this life for the praise of others and we certainly don’t live it for our own happiness. We live for the glory of God. Every day you are a testimony to something. May it be a testimony of the love and grace of God. Amen.