

Galatians - But When God

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

Week 2 - September 28th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

Summary

This week we continue the series in the book of Galatians, focusing on the true nature of the Gospel as a grace-based faith rather than a performance-based religion. We begin by recognizing from Scripture how all people fail to meet God's perfect moral standard, using the Ten Commandments as a measuring stick to show our universal sinfulness. Christianity isn't about making bad people good. It is about making spiritually dead people alive through Jesus Christ. In Paul's testimony to the Galatians (1:13-16), we see a transformative phrase "But when God" that marks every Christian's conversion story. Christians are not only saved from sin, death, and hell, but saved for a purpose: to reveal Christ to others and participate in God's redemptive mission in the world.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we thank You for Your amazing grace that transforms us from death to life. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to understand the true nature of the Gospel - that it's not about our performance but about Christ's finished work on the cross. Help us to see where we might be drifting toward performance-based thinking, and guide our conversation today so that we might better understand how to reveal Your Son in and our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker (Optional)

What is something you tried really hard to fix on your own, only to discover later there was a much simpler solution?

Key Verses

- Galatians 1:3-4, 13-16a
- Colossians 2:13-14
- John 15:5; 19:30
- 2 Corinthians 4:7; 5:21; 7:1
- Acts 16:31

Questions

1. Pastor Clay mentioned our tendency to drift toward performance-based faith. In what areas of your life do you find yourself trying to earn God's approval rather than resting in His grace?
2. How would you explain the difference between being saved by grace versus being saved by works to someone who is new to Christianity?
3. Pastor Clay highlighted the phrase "But when God" as the pivot point in every Christian's testimony. How would you complete that sentence in your own story? (Gal. 1:15)
4. What does it mean practically for Christ to be "revealed in you" as mentioned in Galatians 1:16?
5. How would you answer this question? How is Christ being revealed in and through me?
6. What "small compromises with sin" might Christians make that could yield significant consequences later?
7. How does the concept of "remaining in Christ" (John 15:5) differ from simply trying harder to be good?
8. We are saved not just from something but for something. How are you currently living out your purpose as part of God's mission?

Life Application

This week, take time to reflect on the phrase "God was pleased to reveal his Son in me" from Galatians 1:16. Choose one area of your life (work, family, friendships, etc.) and ask yourself how Christ is being revealed through you in that context. Then, identify one specific action you can take to more intentionally reflect Christ's character in that area. Additionally, consider asking a trusted Christian friend this question: "How do you see Christ revealed in and through me?" Be open to their feedback as an opportunity for growth in your walk with Jesus.

Key Takeaways

- The Gospel is grace-based, not performance-based. Our approval is based on Christ's performance for us, not our performance for Him.
- Every Christian's testimony pivots on the phrase "But when God" - the moment when God intervened in our lives despite our inability to save ourselves.
- God is pleased to reveal His Son in us not because of our goodness but in spite of our brokenness, showing His power through our weakness.
- Christians are saved from sin, death, and hell, but also saved for a purpose: to reveal Christ to others and participate in God's mission.
- Transformation comes not from trying harder but from remaining in Christ, allowing Him to change our affections and desires from the inside out.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible truth that our salvation rests not on our performance but on Your finished work on the cross. We confess our tendency to drift toward trying to earn Your favor rather than resting in Your grace. Help us to remain deeply connected to You so that Your life flows through us, revealing Your character to a world that desperately needs to see You. Forgive us for the small compromises we've made with sin, and renew our hearts to love what You love. May we live with purpose, remembering that we are saved not just from something but for something - to participate in Your redemptive mission in the world. Give us courage to share the public truth of the Gospel wherever You have placed us. In Your powerful name we pray, amen.