

Date: 15 January 2023

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: Called to Preach

Text: Galatians 1:13-24

1. There was another gospel claiming that faith alone is insufficient. That gospel required the work of circumcision. In verses 13-24, Paul defended his credibility as an Apostle and a true preacher of Jesus Christ. We should know how to discern a true preacher or not. There is also a great need for preachers. Preachers must receive the call to preach.
2. It is sinners who are called to preach. A faithful preacher will make it known that he is nothing more than a sinner saved by grace (v13-14). Paul was once fully committed to the way of the Pharisees. He was in line to rise to the top echelons. He once persecuted the Church of God. Yet, the Lord saved and called Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul received salvation and his calling at the same time. This may not always be the case for preachers.
3. This call is by grace (v15). We deserve eternal condemnation, but the Lord Jesus Christ offered us salvation. None of us merits to be witnesses for the Lord.
4. Paul was called to preach because God called him (v16). This applies to every other area of service. *"To reveal his Son in me"* - God was working in Paul's life. People should be able to see Christlikeness. People will always question this call. Paul was also called by God alone. *"Immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood"* - His Apostleship was not given by men. Paul wanted to clarify that his appointment was not by himself or other men (v17-22). The church does not appoint. The pastor, deacons, elders, and leaders are not placed there by the people but by the Lord Himself. Make sure that in whatever areas you serve, you are called by the Lord.
5. One called to preach is also called to glorify God (v23-24). There was only one thing they knew about the Apostle Paul: his transformation. Look at the power of the gospel- Paul, who was once a persecutor, is now a preacher. Every preacher must know he is a sinner and confess Christ sincerely from his heart.

*Matthew 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*