

Freedom & Influence

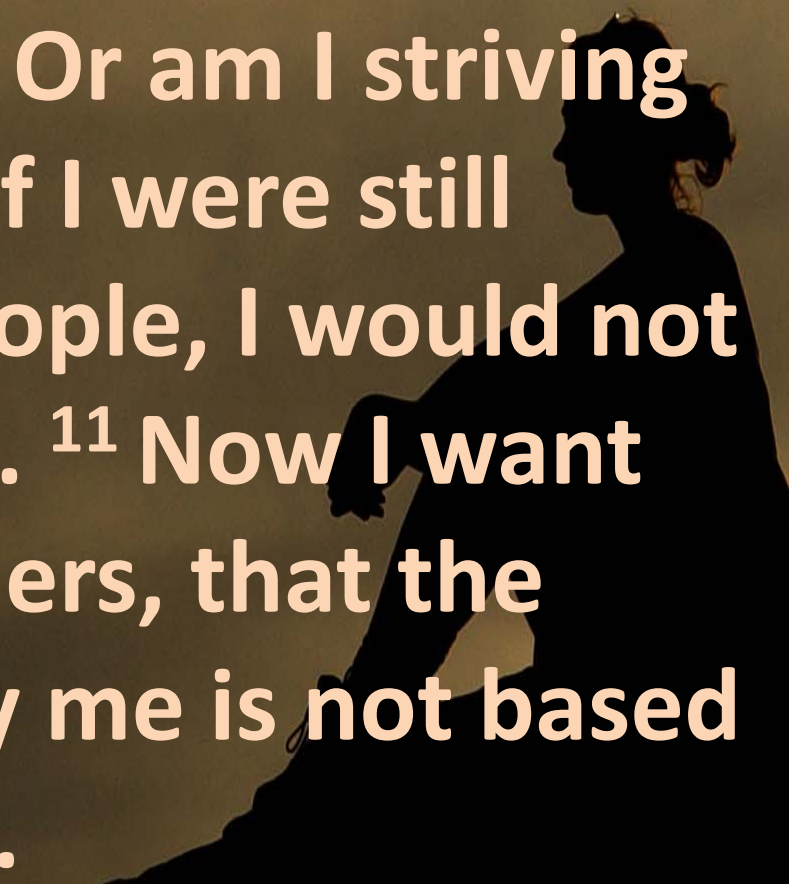
Galatians 1:10-24

Series: The Thrill of Freedom



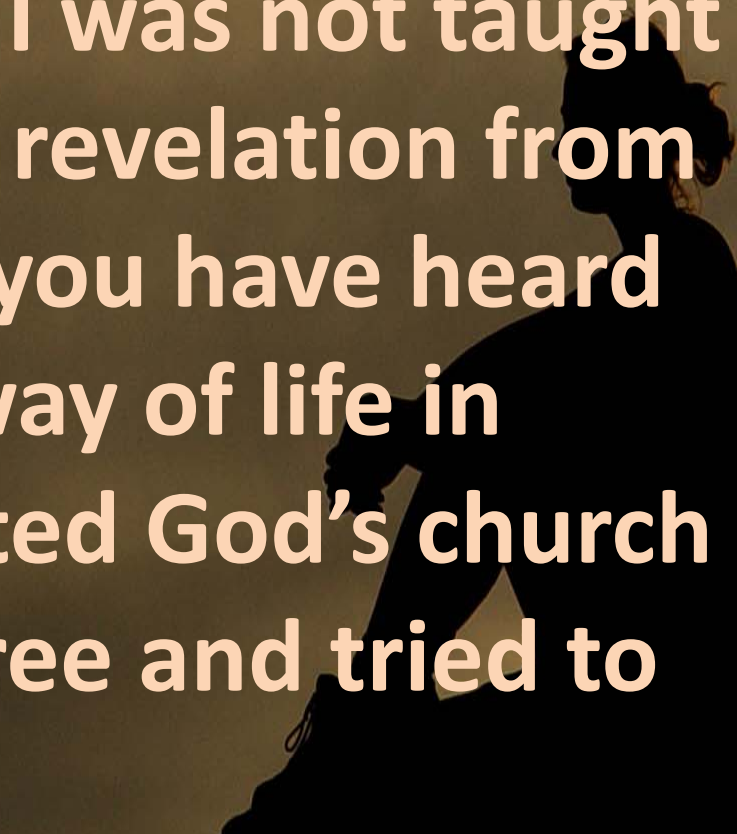
Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

¹⁰ For am I now trying to win the favor of people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ. ¹¹ Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not based on human thought.

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out over a sunset. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, with their back to the camera and their head turned slightly to the left. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

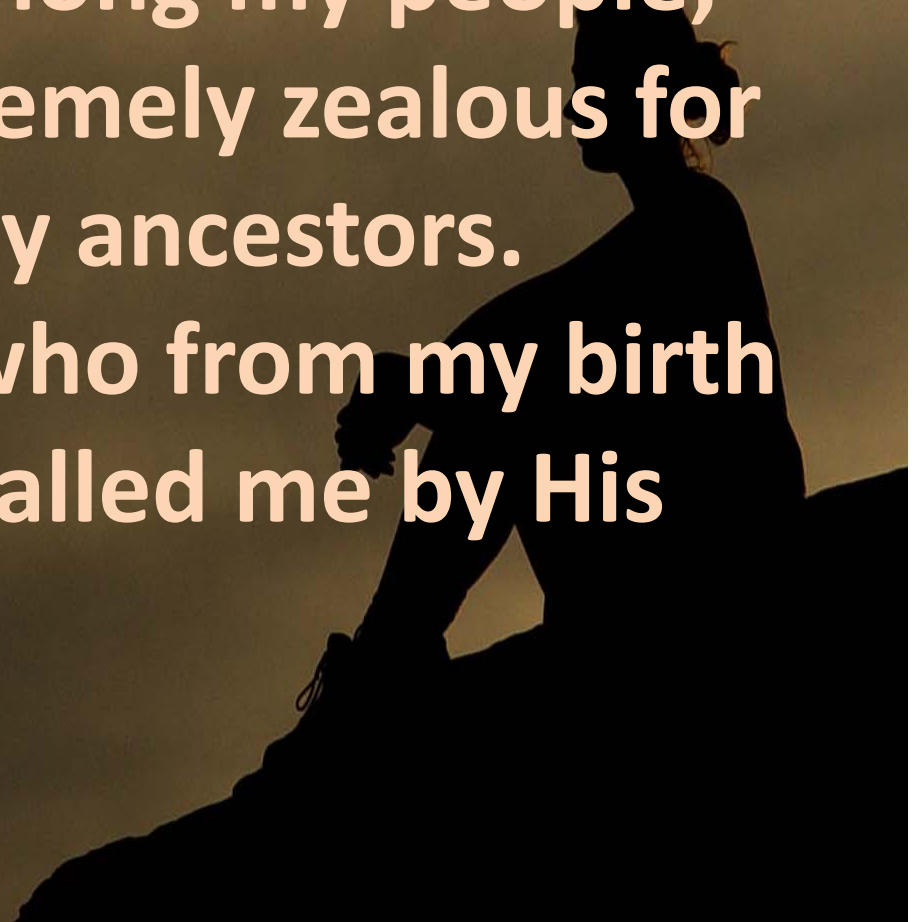
12 For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation from Jesus Christ. **13** For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I persecuted God's church to an extreme degree and tried to destroy it.

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out over a sunset or sunrise. The person is in profile, facing right, with their hair tied up. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient, suggesting a bright sky at dawn or dusk. The person's shadow is cast onto the rock they are sitting on.

Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

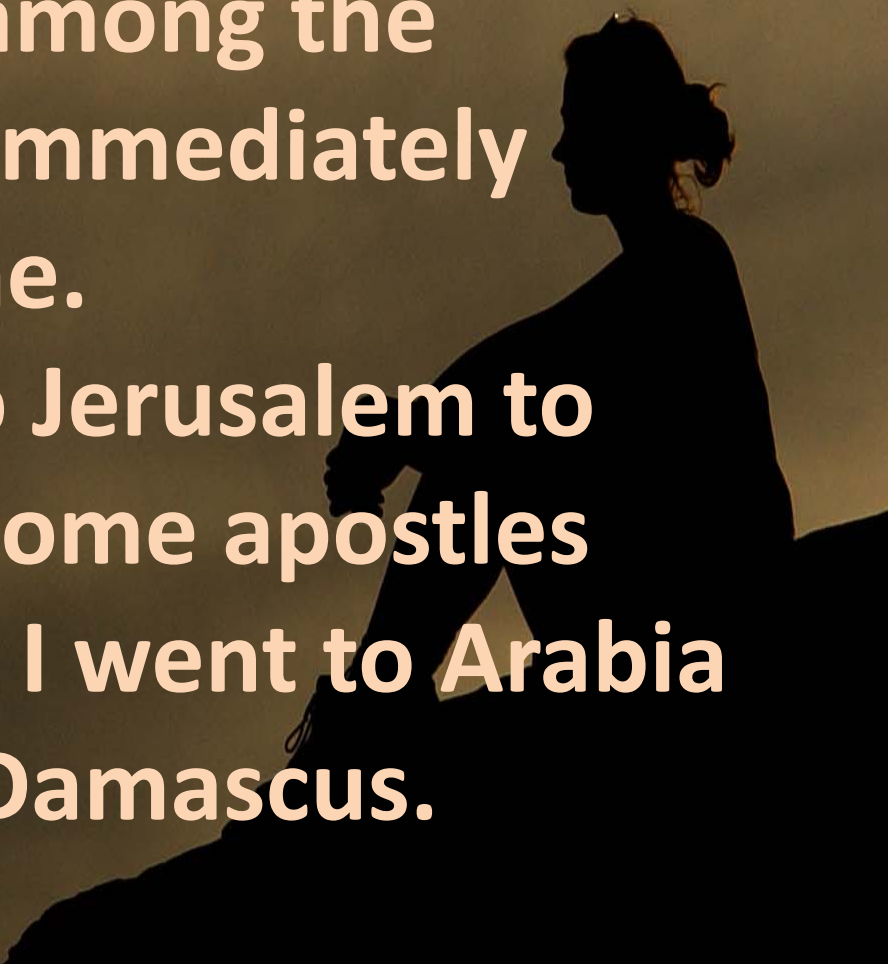
15 But when God, who from my birth set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased



Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, so that I could preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone.

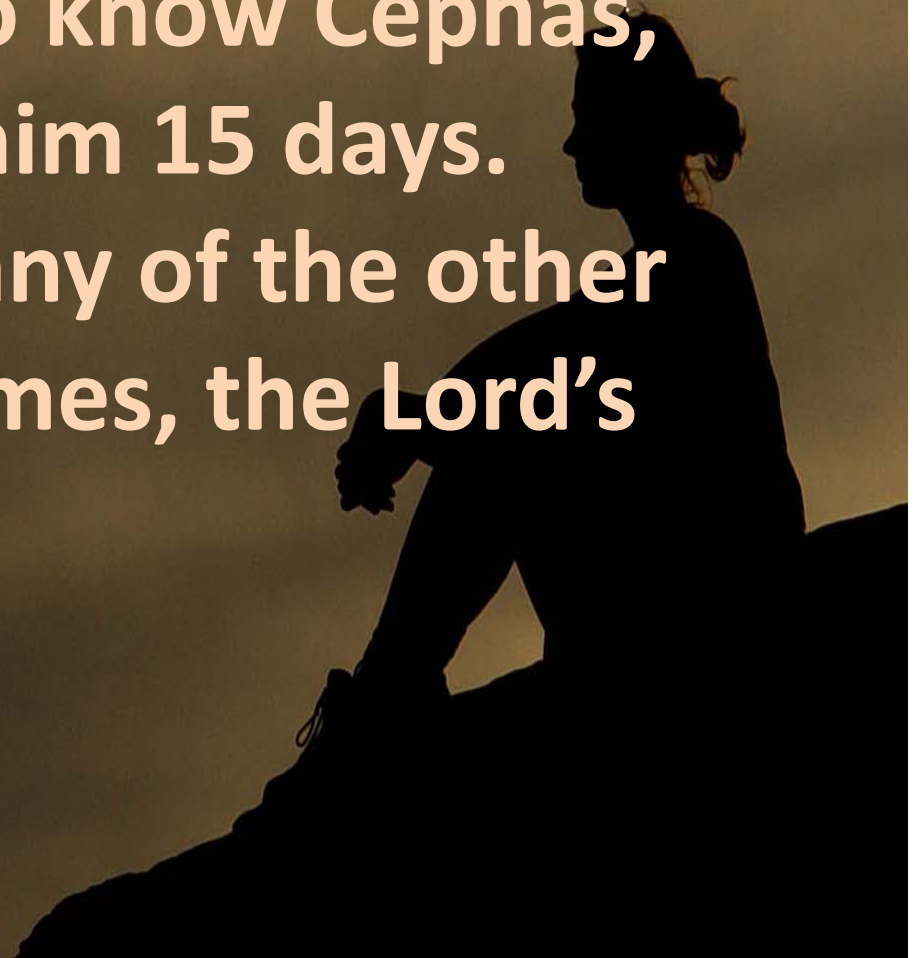
¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out over a sunset or sunrise. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, with their back to the camera and their head turned slightly to the left. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient, suggesting a low sun. The person's hair is tied up, and they are wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment.

Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

18 Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days.

19 But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

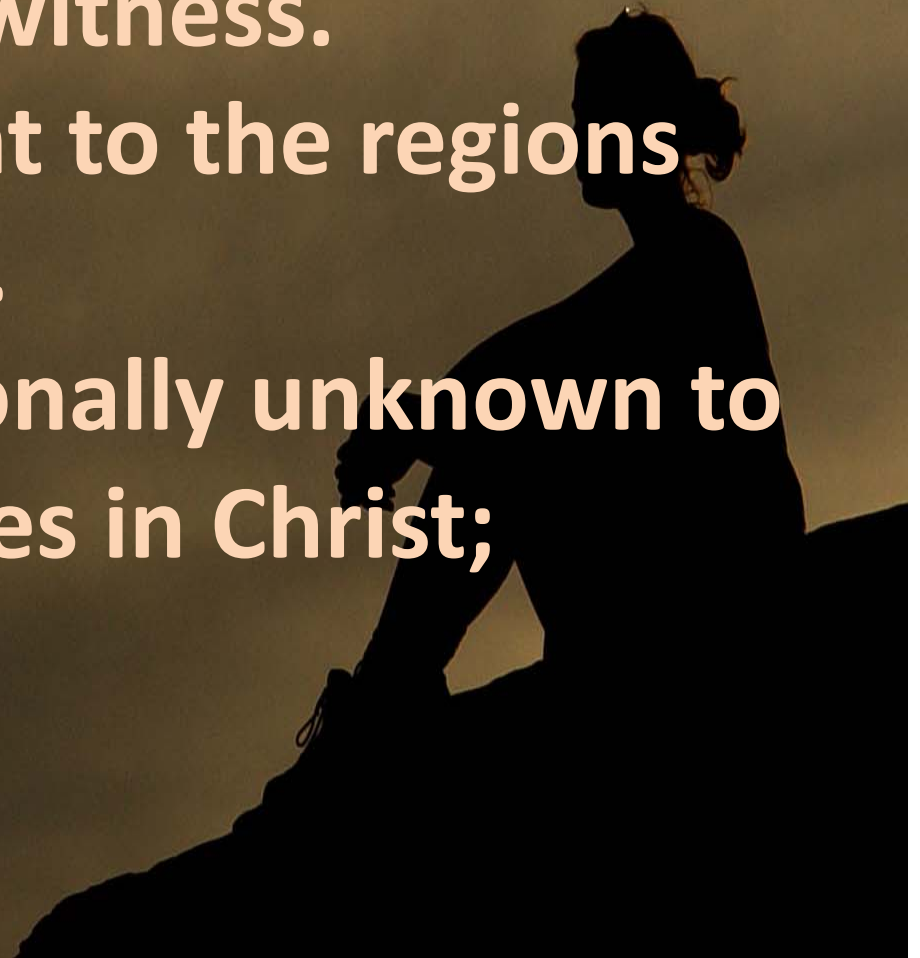


Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

²⁰ Now I am not lying in what I write to you. God is my witness.

²¹ Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

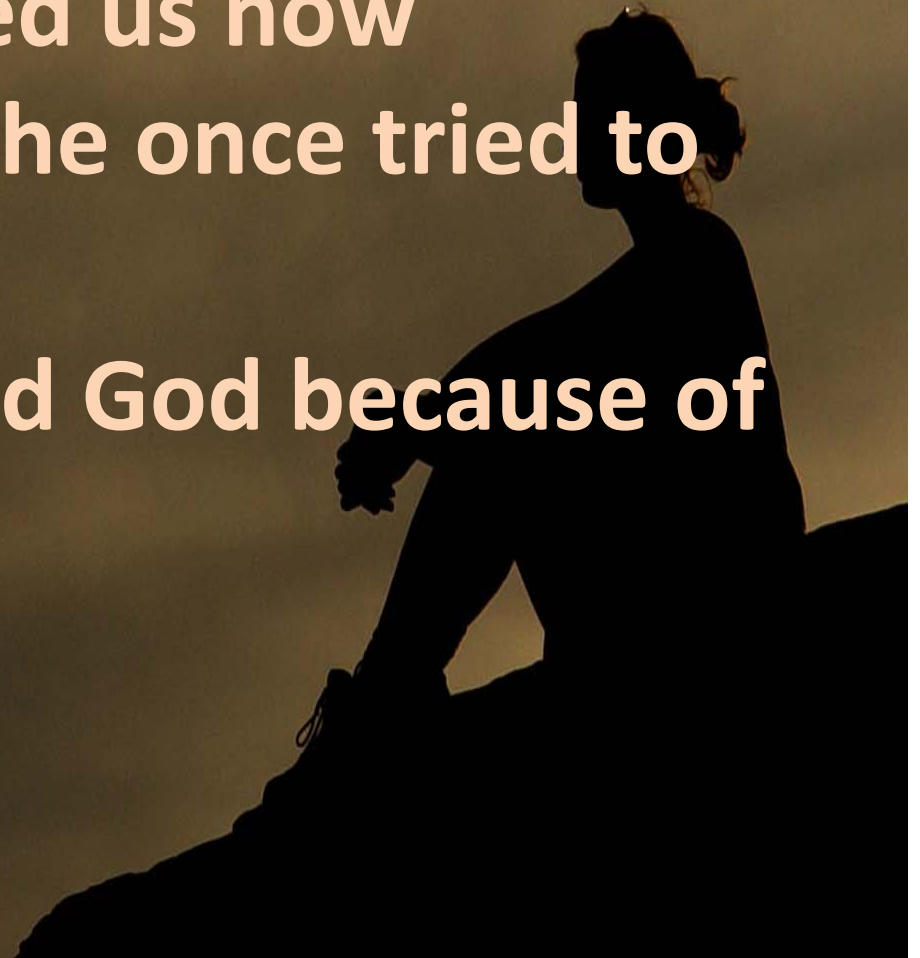
²² I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches in Christ;



Galatians 1:10-24 (HCSB)

²³ they simply kept hearing: “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy.”

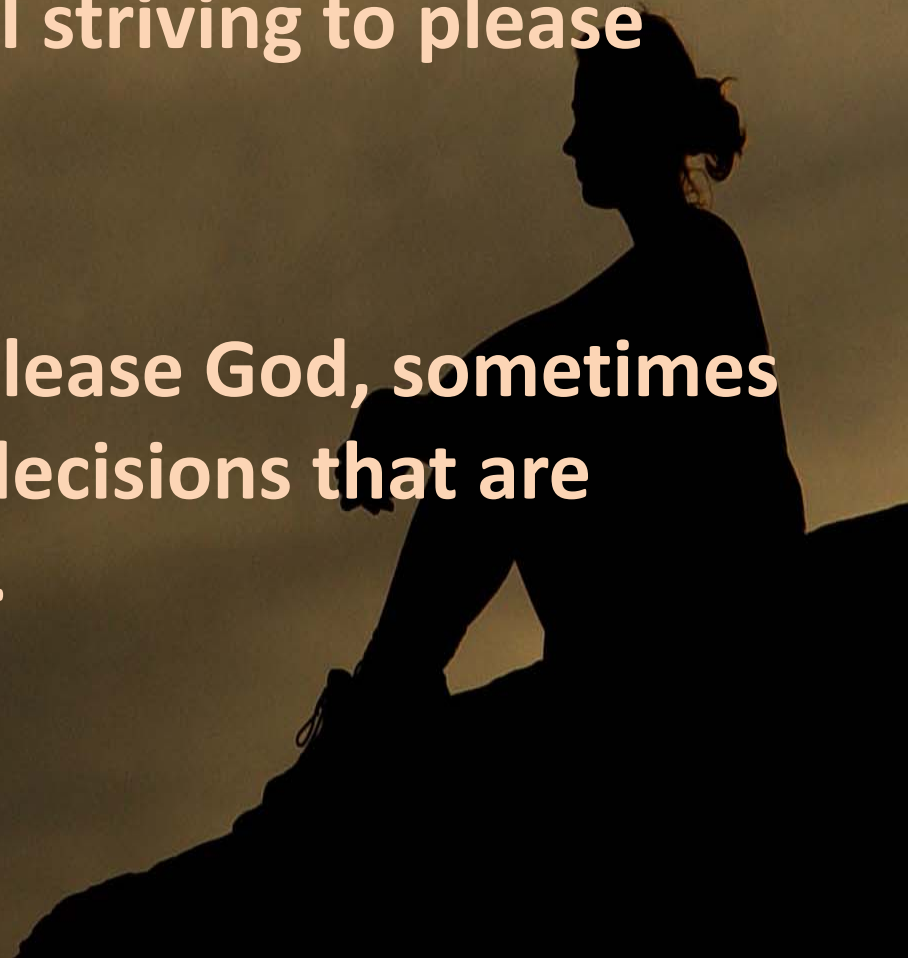
²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.



1. Please God First

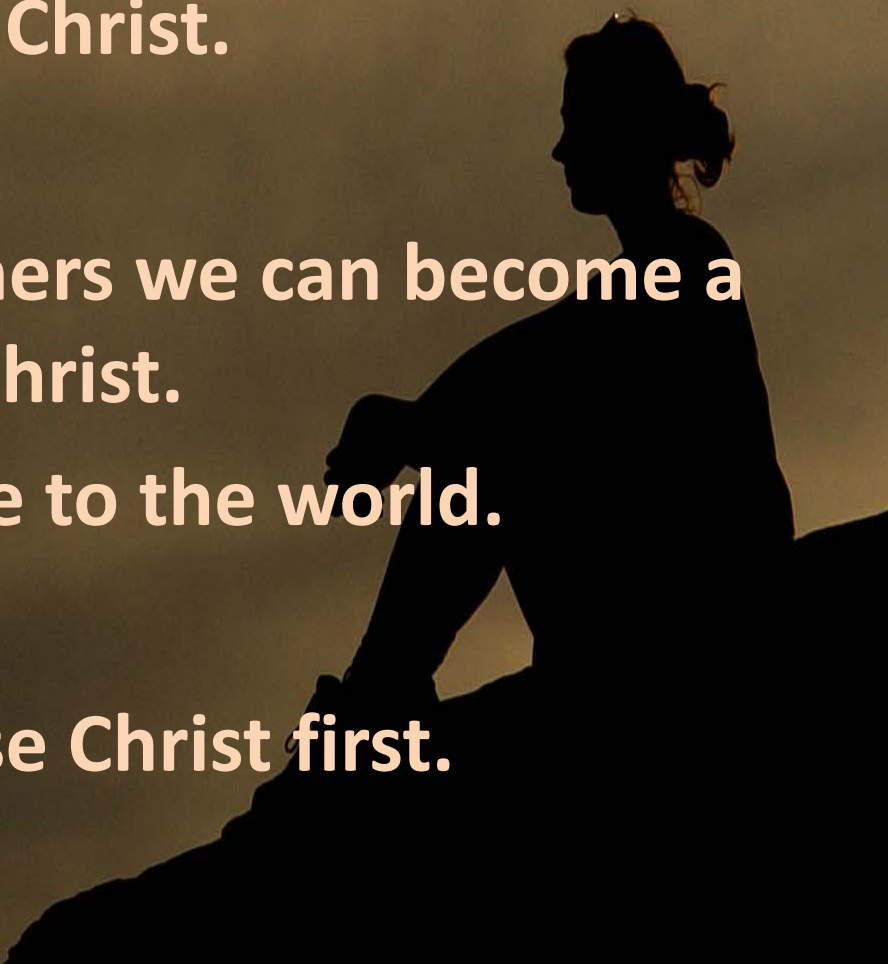
¹⁰ For am I now trying to win the favor of people, or God? Or am I striving to please people?

If you're seeking first to please God, sometimes you will have to make decisions that are unpopular with people.



1. Please God First

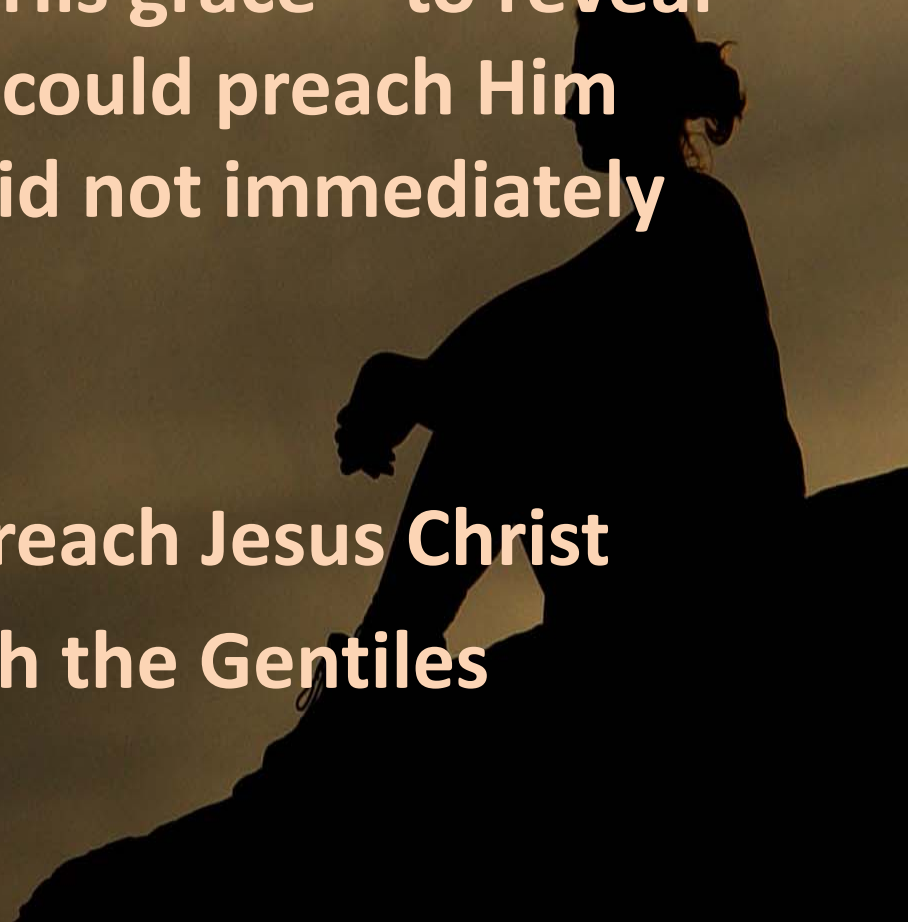
¹⁰ ...If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ.

- Problem of pleasing others we can become a slave to them and not Christ.
 - We then become a slave to the world.
 - Paul challenges to please Christ first.
- 
- A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out over a sunset or sunrise. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, with their back to the camera and their head turned slightly to the left. The background is a soft, warm glow from the sun, creating a gradient from light yellow to dark brown. The person's hair is tied up, and they are wearing a dark top. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

2. Make God's Mission a Priority

¹⁵ But when God, who from my birth set me apart and called me by His grace ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, so that I could preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone.

- Paul's mission was to preach Jesus Christ
- His mission was to reach the Gentiles

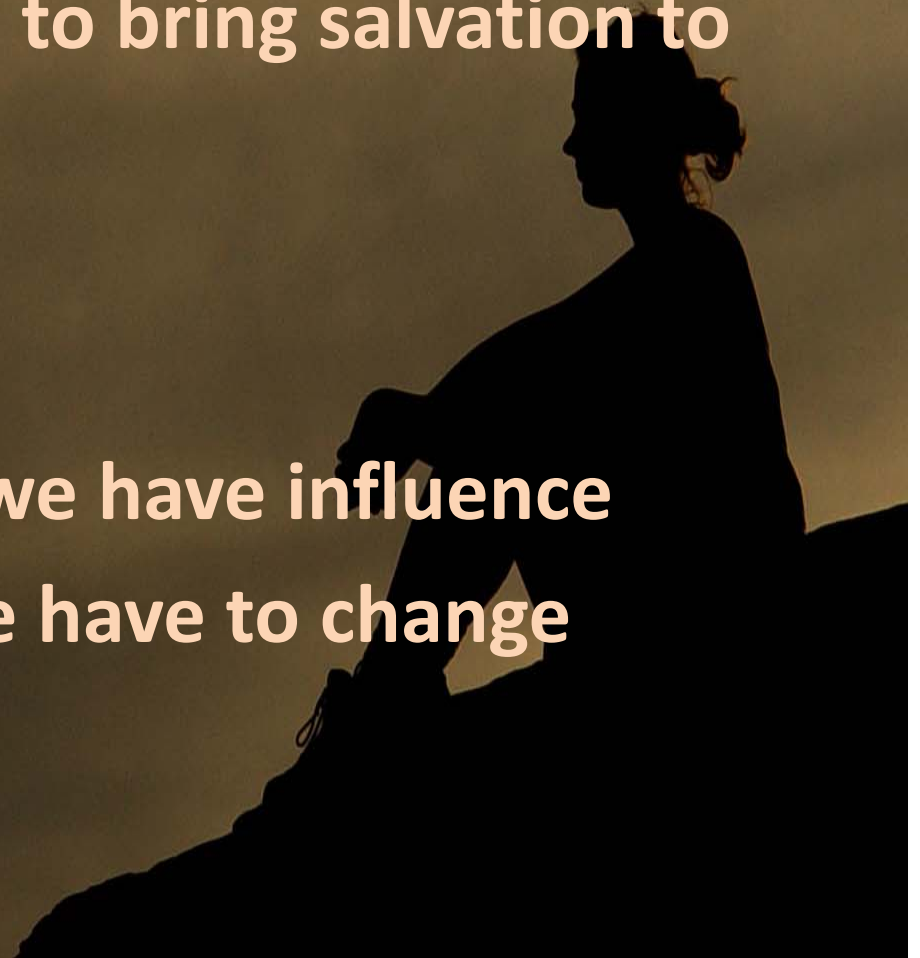


2. Make God's Mission a Priority

The heart of Paul's message was that Jesus Christ died on the cross to bring salvation to all people.

The same is true for us:

- We are to proclaim
- We are to reach those we have influence
- That is the influence we have to change people and the world

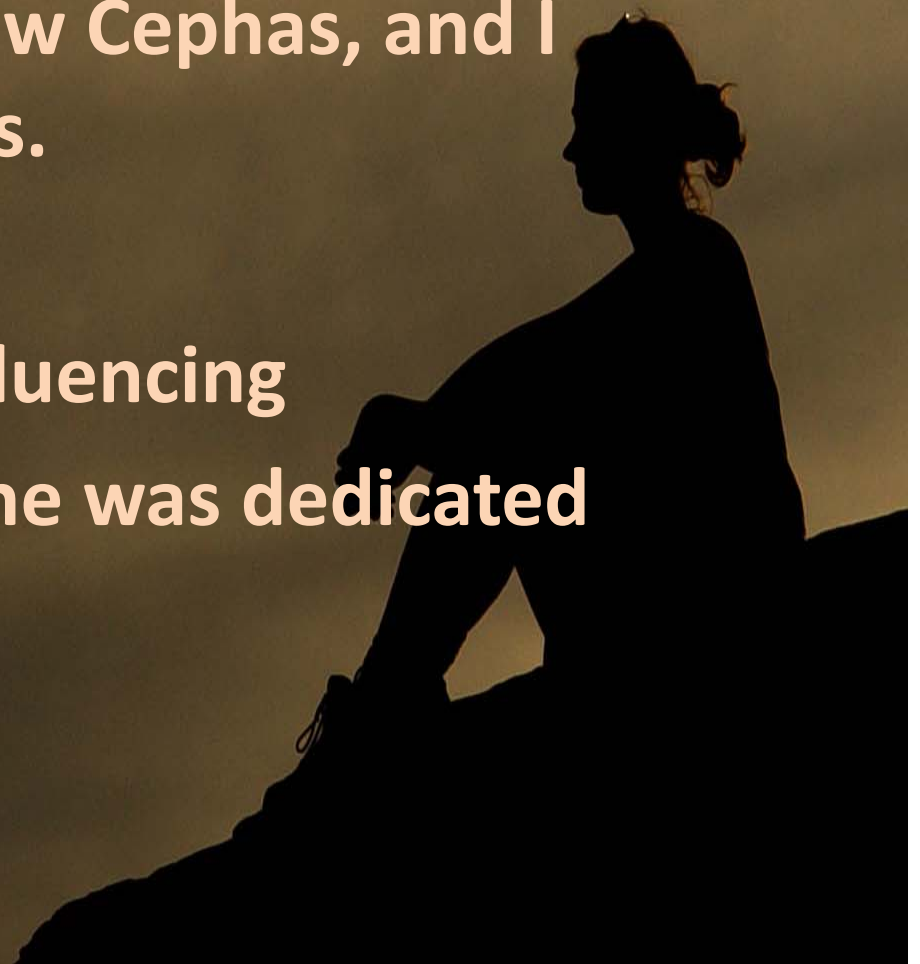


3. Influence Takes Dedication

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days.

Paul was dedicated to influencing

Paul influenced because he was dedicated




Freedom & Influence

Paul was a credible influence:

²⁰ Now I am not lying in what I write to you. God is my witness...²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

Today we have freedom to become an influence to those around us, but we must be credible by dedicating ourselves to pleasing our Lord.

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out over a sunset or sunrise. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, with their back to the camera and their head turned slightly to the left. The background is a soft, warm glow from the sun, creating a gradient from light yellow to dark brown. The person's hair is pulled up, and they appear to be wearing a dark top. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.