

FORMER MANNER OF LIFE

We all have a Former Manner of Life prior to salvation. Sometimes that Former Manner of Life is difficult to live down to the satisfaction of others.

If you live to please others, you will always be frustrated and discouraged in CWL (Christian way of Life) because of different norm and standards of people. Paul experienced this early in his CWL and ministry.

“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men, I would not be a bond-slave of Christ.” (Gal.1:10)

It is important for the CAB to please God rather than man – “Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.” (1 Thess.4:1)

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (**Heb.11:6**; Rom.10:17)

Our lesson text opens with this very problem regarding Paul’s Former Manner of life as a religious zealot of Judaism – “For you have heard of **my former manner of life in Judaism**, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.” (Gal.1:13)

<p>We will study five aspects of Paul’s Former Manner of Life.</p>

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points of Paul’s Former Manner of Life.

- (Gal.1:13-14) Persecuted God’s church
- (Gal.1:15-16) Pleas'd God to call Paul as minister of God’s church
- (Gal.1:17) Preparation for ministry to God’s church
- (Gal.1:18-20) Presenting his calling to the pillars of Jerusalem church (Gal.2:9)
- (Gal.1:21-24) Preacher of grace gospel of God’s church

Point of interest: God sent Paul to ministry where he was disciple and trained in ministry – “Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.” (Gal.1:21; Acts 22:3)

2. We are all saved from some Former Manner of Life through faith in the gospel of grace salvation. (Phil.1:27; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

All members of the human race are physically born with the imputation of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS). The imputation of AOS consists of the 13 judicial charges listed in the 50 Things pamphlet.

These 13 judicial charges of AOS are removed at the moment of grace salvation forever (Rom.5:12-21; 8:1; John 3:16, 36; John 5:24).

3. The former manner of life is not transformed by energy of flesh or by human will power or by religious good works. At best, this is reformation but not transformation (1 Pet.1:14-16).

(1 Tim.1:13-16) “**Even though I was formerly** blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown **mercy** because I acted in ignorance in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the **faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus**. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner, among whom I am **foremost** of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the **foremost**, Jesus Christ might demonstrate **His perfect patience** as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.” (Phil.3:6-9)

(Acts 13:38-39) “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that **through Him** forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and **through Him** everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not through the Law of Moses be freed.”

4. Instead of hiding from his former manner of life that had affected many people, Paul embraced the amazing grace of God that had saved and forgiven him from it (Eph.2:8-9; 2 Cor.5:17).

(1 Cor.15:10) “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace towards me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet, not I, but the grace of God with me.”

(Rom.12:2) “For though the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.:

This only comes through transformation from Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) to New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking and behaving (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22-24).

Transformation at work: Paul went from persecuting to preaching the church of Jesus Christ (Gal.1:13, 23-24; Phil.3:5-9). Paul went from killing to dying for church of Jesus Christ (2 Tim.4:6-8).

5. Even with God’s transformational grace, there will be people who do not understand or believe your life has have changed in Christ Jesus (Acts 9:13-19) (Ananias).

There will be others who don’t care. For example the Pharisees who once applauded Paul are now his bitter enemy (Acts 23:12-13, 21) (Anathema Oath).

The Judaizer believers opposed Paul **not because** he stopped persecuting them as a Pharisee, but because he preached a grace salvation gospel.

(Acts 21:21) “And they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.”

King Agrippa and Festus thought Paul had lost his mind because of his grace gospel (Acts 26:19-29 / 24-25, 28-29).

KEEP YOUR FORMER MANNER OF LIFE, THE FORMER!