

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
EXPERIENCING CHRIST AS REVEALED IN GALATIANS**

Message One

The Son of God Revealed in Us

Scripture Reading: Gal. 1:15-16;
Eph. 1:5, 9; Phil. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:5; 5:1; Rom. 14:18; 2 Cor. 13:14

I. “It pleased God”—Gal. 1:15a:

- A. God has a will in which is His good pleasure—Eph. 1:9.
- B. God predestinated us to be His sons, according to His good pleasure, according to His heart’s delight—v. 5.
- C. God has made known to us “the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself”; it was the pleasure of God’s heart to make the mystery of His will known to us—v. 9.
- D. Through the compassions of God, we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God—Rom. 12:1.
- E. He who serves Christ is well pleasing to God—14:18.
- F. We need to learn and experience what is well pleasing to the Lord—Eph. 5:10.
- G. Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to God—Heb. 11:6.
- H. We can have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly—12:28.
- I. God is operating in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure—Phil. 2:13.
- J. The eternal purpose of God is of God’s will according to God’s good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself; God’s will and God’s good pleasure are interrelated—Eph. 1:5, 9.

II. God revealed His Son in Paul and in us—Gal. 1:15-16:

- A. The word *reveal* in Galatians 1:16 is crucial and of utmost importance:
 - 1. To reveal is to make known (divulge) or to show plainly (display) something that had previously been kept secret.
 - 2. In the New Testament *revealed* is used in a profound manner related to our spirit—Rom. 1:17; 8:18; 1 Cor. 2:10; 1 Pet. 1:5; 5:1.
 - 3. “Guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time”—1:5.
- B. Years after his conversion, Paul declared in Galatians 1:15-16 that it pleased God to reveal His Son in him:
 - 1. This revelation was not merely an outward vision but an inward seeing:
 - a. Paul had an inner vision; inwardly he began to see Christ.
 - b. This inner vision made him and qualified him to be an apostle in order that he might present the very Christ who had been revealed in him, rather than merely teaching doctrines and theology according to a certain religion.
 - 2. The Son of God, as the embodiment and expression of God the Father (John 1:18; 14:9-11; Heb. 1:3), is life to us (John 10:10; 1 John 5:12; Col. 3:4).
 - 3. God’s heart’s desire is to reveal His Son in us so that we may know Him, receive Him as our life (John 17:3; 3:16), and become the sons of God (1:12; Gal. 4:5-6).
 - 4. In Galatians 1:16 Paul emphasizes the fact that the Son of God was revealed in him:
 - a. This indicates that God’s revealing of His Son to us is in us; it is not outward but inward, not by an outward vision but by an inward seeing.
 - b. It is not an objective revelation but a subjective one.
 - 5. Moreover, Paul says that it *pleased* God to reveal His Son in him:

- a. To reveal His Son in us is a pleasure to God; it is Christ, the Son of God, in whom God the Father is always pleased—Matt. 3:17; 12:18; 17:5.
 - b. Nothing is more pleasing to God than the unveiling, the revelation, of the living person of the Son of God.
- 6. In Paul's Epistles we see that the Son is the mystery of God, the embodiment of God, and the One in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily—Col. 2:2, 9.
- 7. The revelation of the Son of God is an inward revelation in our spirit—2 Tim. 4:22a.
- C. Christ, the Son of God, is the embodiment of the Triune God realized as the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 1:3-4, 7-9; 2:13, 16; 8:6; 11:3; 12:4-6; 15:45b:
 - 1. Whenever we speak of the Son of God, we are immediately involved with the Father and the Spirit—v. 45b.
 - 2. According to the writings of Paul, to have the Son is to have both the Father and the Spirit—Gal. 1:1, 3, 15-16; 3:1-2; 4:6; 5:5-6, 22, 25.
 - 3. The Son is the embodiment of the Triune God realized as the Spirit for our enjoyment—2 Cor. 13:14.
- D. In order to receive an inward, subjective, and spiritual revealing of the Son of God, we need to drop our concepts, turn our hearts to the Lord, pay attention to our spirit, and pray over verses from the writings of Paul:
 - 1. If we do this, the Spirit will enlighten us and speak to us of Christ.
 - 2. As a result, we will receive a subjective revelation of the Son of God—Gal. 1:16.