

# WPS Small Group Questions

February 20, 2011

*Galatians 1:11-24*

- Please read *Galatians 1:11-24* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.
- There are two topics which questions are asked from. Feel free to explore and expand on either topic in whatever order you feel best fit.
- Notes to small group leaders are written in green.

## Topic 1: God works in All things.

- In writing to the Galatians, Paul subtly expresses how God is working in our lives even when we do not notice it. The purpose of this topic is to emphasize that God works in every area of our lives.

Paul saw the evidence of God working in his life as he states that God “had set [him] apart before [he] was born” (vs. 15).

- Have there been any incidences where you have seen the evidence of God working in your life?
- What was it about your situation that made you think that it was God working?

Paul writes in Romans 8:28 that “for those who love God *all things* work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

- Is Paul saying that God works in every single detail of life?
  - **Proverbs 16:33** (ESV) “The lot is cast into the lap, but its *every decision* is from the LORD.”
- What does Romans 8:28 imply about God working in our tragedies?
- How does this verse give us hope in our troubles?
  - Romans 8:20-21 ESV “*For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*”

## Topic 2: Salvation come from God

- In Galatians 1:15-16, Paul states that God set him apart before he was born and that the Gospel had been revealed to him. This topic serves to show God’s hand in our salvation and to emphasize God’s grace.

What does Paul mean when he says in Romans 3:10-12 (ESV)

*“None is righteous, no, not one;  
[11] no one understands;  
no one seeks for God.*

*[12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;  
no one does good,  
not even one." ?*

- Paul quotes this passage from Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3 to state that because of sin, there is nothing within ourselves that naturally seeks to know God.

If it is true that no one naturally seeks God, then where does our passion and longing to know more about God come from?

- Passion and longing for God ultimately come from God himself.
  - **1 John 4:19** "We love because he first loved us."
  - **Ephesians 1:4-5** "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will"

If our passions and longings for God are from God himself, then is our salvation also not our own doing? Did you choose to be a Christian? Or did God choose you? Or both?

- **Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"
- **Galatians 1:15-16** "But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me,"

Is it unsettling to think that God first chose you and that you did not first choose God? Why or why not?

How does God's work in our salvation emphasize His grace?

- If we did not seek God but rather he sought us first, then grace is purely a gift and of no means of our own doing what so ever.

How should we live our lives as a respond to this grace?

- With praise and worship to God.