

# The Strength of Personal Testimony

## Galatians 1:11- 21

Scripture shares much about the positive relevance of personal testimonies.

Paul begins this section with a very personal comment, “For ye have heard of my conversation (life style) in time past” Galatians 1:13 (a). The strength of personal testimony is unequivocal in the battles against oppressive forces as related in Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” The Christians shuttered as they recalled what Saul had done to the churches. This has not changed as we look at the opposition to the church of the lord Jesus Christ in such places as in the state of Orissa, India where 600 Christian homes were burned to the ground and as many as 65 churches. As the Hindus feared to loose their supremacy in India, so the Jewish authority had the same concern. To the Jewish religious leaders, Saul had fallen to this “diabolical” religion of being a follower of Christ. His name now being, Paul had one of the greatest minds of the day. It amazes me how great men will embrace religions that have no biblical substance apart from the fact that God has given them over to reprobate minds due to the fact that they would not believe the truth when it came to them according to Romans 1:21- 24 and II Thessalonians 3: 11,12.

There is a weakness in the democratic system in that men respond to the majority verses the “authority” of God. Democracy is at its best when every heart is controlled by the reverential fear of Almighty God. See Acts 4: 13, 20, 31. Like many believers, Paul had to stand alone even though his pedigree was most impressive as recorded in Philippians 3:4-6. Highly gifted men apart from Christ may well present a stellar opposition to society as seen in our text, “. . . how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it” Gal. 1:13 (b). Paul was fully sincere in his attacks on the church, but was sincerely wrong being misled by the religious authorities of the day who were under the sway of demonic forces. “Sincerity” and “security” may well be miles apart. How applicable is John 16:3 “And these things will they do unto you,

because they have not known the Father, nor me.” Seeking the Lord through “tradition” rather than “contrition” may well be fatal. From his new vantage point, he can see the sovereignty of God from conception to his present day. God had a purpose for Paul and there were not enough demons and evil men combined who could thwart God’s plan for Paul’s life. Psalm 76: 10 “Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.” Through the experience of the “new birth,” Paul has undergone an incredible change as related in verse 15, 16. All that was conferred upon Paul came directly from heaven, which motivated him to preach among the heathen (V.16). His calling was not the ordination of man but was directly from God (v.17). Paul did not underestimate fellowship with the saints (V.17) but would not heed to the dictates of men. He spent three years in the “backside of the desert” where it would be good for today’s preachers to assemble with God and God alone rather than, what frequently is the case, the ministerial assassination meetings. Even though the law brought him to the awareness of God’s holiness and his personal sinfulness; in Christ, he is now no longer under the law. Gal. 3: 25 “But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”

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