GOD’S PLANS

PAUL

Galatians 1:15-16 KJV

[15] But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, [16] To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

When we read of Paul, we get the idea that he did not know about God's plans for him until he was converted. If that be so, we can truly say that Paul lived quite a bit of the other side of life before realizing what God really wanted him to do. God's plans are not always our plans, at least not in the beginning. Many of us have our dreams and desires for our life without including God in very much of it. The Lord knew us before we were born. He has a path set for us. The good life for us is to find that path, get in it and stay in it.

Finding that path does not always happen quickly for us. I'm not sure how old the Apostle Paul was when he met Jesus but it seems he was well into his adult life. It would be easy to say that he had not looked for the path very hard but it seems to me he had looked for the path of God. He had been raised in a Jewish household. He had gotten the finest Jewish education. The path he pursued included God. To the best of his knowledge he lived according to the letter of the law. Paul had followed a path that was honorable to a Jew but it wasn't God's plan for Paul. God calls us unto his plan and places us there. It is the work of God. God's plan includes Jesus his Son.

Getting in it must be God's work in our life. We cannot do anything within our ability to gain access to God's plan and path for us. He alone places us where we need to be. He calls us, equips us and places us in this great work he has for us. God did not give up on Paul even when he was an enemy to Jesus. He doesn't give up on us but when we know he is calling us into his work we should surrender to his call and not tempt the Lord by living contrary to him. He does not have to keep putting up with our rebellion.

God help us, once we find his path and we are in the path, let us stay in it. We are prone to wander. Many times we want to skip rows to find something better. No matter where we are something always seems more pleasing to the eye. Many have left God's path for something with more notoriety or something more lucrative or something easier. All those things are just early exits from a path that God had perfectly planned for us. Sometimes something may not go our way and away we go. Our feelings got hurt so we left the path. I wasn't included in something so I decided to leave before I really knew what God had planned. I may have thought the task I was called to was too big for me and I quit for fear of failing. Stay with it! It is his work and he has called you to it. He has what it takes to accomplish the task!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram