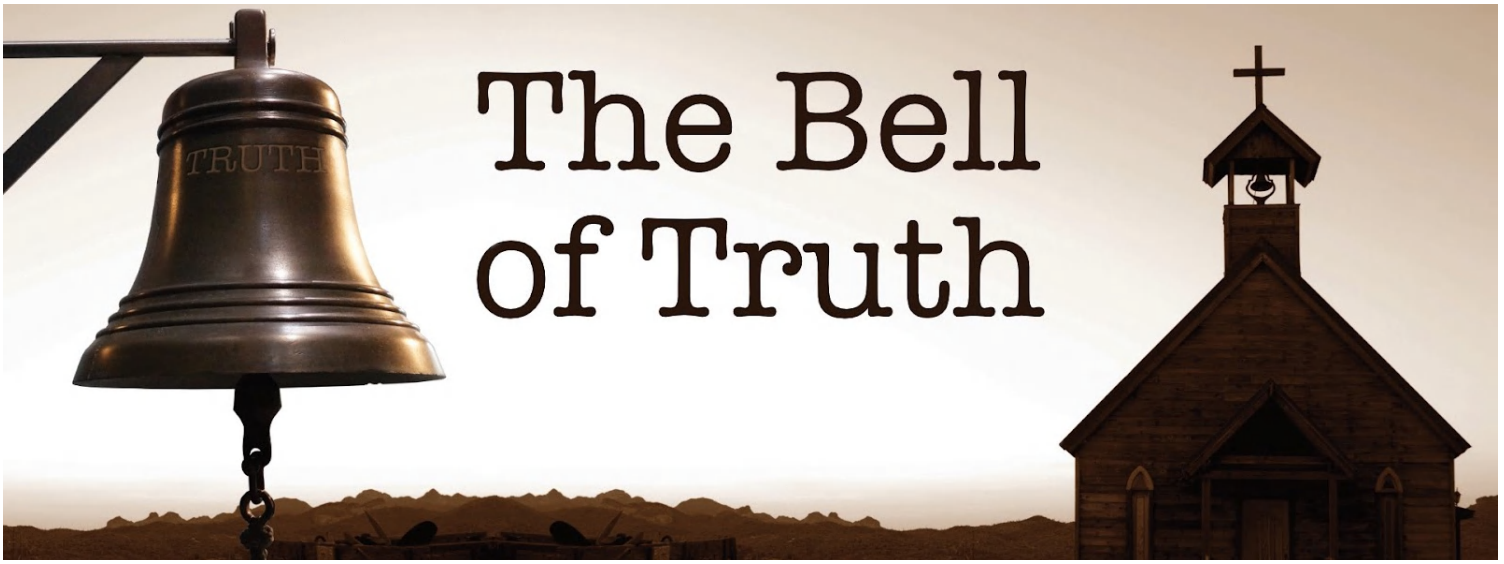


Week of October 23 - "Ringing In The Truth" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 1

Connect

What bible figure do you think had the greatest dramatic change in their life upon encountering the living God? How did they change?

Verses - Galatians 1:11-24 (NKJV)

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was
preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from
man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus
Christ. 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I
persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14
And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my
own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my
fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's
womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I
might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with
flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were
apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to
Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter,
and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other
apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now concerning the things
which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) 21 Afterward I went
into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the
churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only,
"He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once
tried to destroy." 24 And they glorified God in me.

Study

1. Paul gives his pre-conversion details in vv.13-14.
   How was Paul zealous? (Philippians 3:4-7; Acts 8:1-3) What was the problem with his zeal and sincerity?

2. Paul provides his conversion details in vv. 15-16.
   How does Galatians 1:15-16 compare with the verses Galatians 1:13-14. In what way are they opposed to each other? How does this support Paul's argument that he needed the power of God for life change?

3. Paul provides his post-conversion details in verses 16-22.
   Where did he go and who did he spend time with? Who couldn't he spend time with? How does this support Paul's argument that the gospel that he preaches is not from man (vv.1, 11)? Why is the source important? (Ephesians 3:2-5)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** False teachers attacked God's word by discrediting Paul's apostleship who was sent to preach God's word. How in similar ways does Satan attack God's word today? (See John 8:44)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** How can we continue to uphold and honor God's Word when persecuted or attacked (perhaps someone says you or someone else are a phony Christian)?

4. How and *why* did the churches respond to Paul's conversion? (Galatians 1:23-24)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** The miracle that occurred in Paul has also occurred in those who believe the gospel. How has the change in your fellow believers' lives given you encouragement and prompted you to worship God? How has it strengthened your faith?

🏃 **APPLY 2:** Would you like to share the story of your faith with who needs a life change as Paul did? What would you say and who could it be?

Share

How have you gone from being a Saul (Paul before conversion and a people pleaser) and being more like a Paul (post-conversion, a God pleaser)?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for each other that we would honor God's word.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with the person from Apply 2.