

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. - 1 Corinthians 15:10

## I. UNTIMELY BORN

- Because of his previous attacks on Christ, Paul felt keenly the grace of God in his life. The grace of God extended to him was like the saving of a stillborn child.
- Paul had no worthiness of his own to offer Christ. He did not deserve the title “apostle” (Phil. 3; Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:15).

## II. CHANGED HEARTS MAKE CHANGED LIVES

- Paul is who he is. There is no changing the past. Paul is amazed by the grace of God extended to him. He does not deserve his salvation nor his ministry, and yet they are his by God’s grace (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Tim. 1:12-15).
- The grace of God in Paul’s life was a working grace. It moved him toward action (Vs. 10; Titus 2:11-14).
- Paul preached the gospel without variant or shame. It was the same gospel shared by Peter, the Twelve, the 500 witnesses, James the brother of the Lord, and all the apostles. There is one gospel message (Vs. 11; Rom. 1:1-5; 1 Cor. 15:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:8).

## III. FIVE EPIPHANIES

- The power of the gospel brought about five changes in Paul’s life. Changes we should be seeking as well:
  1. A profound recognition of sin (Ps. 14:3; Rom. 3:23).
  2. A deep appreciation for grace (Titus 3:5).
  3. A changed approach to life (Phil. 3:10-11).
  4. A love for Christ’s church (1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:10).
  5. A redirection in energy (1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 11:22-29).

**KNOW:** Our past is our past, there is very little we can do about those events now other than repent and seek to correct our course. When we know who we now are in Christ, we can move on to what God has called us to be.

**DO:** Acknowledge your sin. Repent. Move on to greater things in Christ.

**Suggested Reading:**

*The Gospel of Jesus Christ* by Paul Washer  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

*Basic Christianity* by John R.W. Stott  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

**For Children:**

*The Gospel: Big Theology for Little Hearts* by Devon and Jessica Provencher  
(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please Read I Corinthians 15:8-11**

1. Why does Paul consider Christ's appearance to him to be "as to one untimely born"?
2. Why does Paul consider himself the "least of the apostles"? Was that, in fact, a reality?
3. What does Paul mean when he says, "I am what I am"? Is he saying "I can do what I please?" Or is he implying something different?
4. How are we to confront the sin in our own pasts (and present)?
5. What does God's grace do for us? (see Titus 2:11-14)
6. How will you, personally, respond to this text/message?