



**A NEW KIND OF YOU**  
***"New Passion"***

**Pastor Derwin Gray**  
**January 7-8, 2012**

1. Open in Prayer:

Father, You've graciously given us another year. May 2012 be the year that we become who You've recreated us to be in Jesus, and may we accomplish all that You call us to accomplish. Lord, why can't 2012 be the greatest and most successful year of our lives? May it be so for Your glory! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

2. Read Ephesians 1:1.

- Bio of Saul of Tarsus:
  - Saul was born in Tarsus, which is in modern-day Turkey. Tarsus was a metropolis brimming with ethnic and cultural diversity. It was also a prosperous city of international commerce because of its strategic location.
  - Saul was motherless from the age of nine. His father was a prominent tentmaker and a member of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were zealous about Jewish nationalism. They believed it was their mission to make sure Israel kept strict obedience to the Law of Moses. They expanded the 10 Commandments to 613.
  - As a Pharisee, Saul wouldn't have been allowed to have Gentile (non-Jewish) friends. Gentiles were lower than dogs in the eyes of a Pharisee. Saul was a racist.
  - By age 13, Saul would have mastered all 39 books of the O.T.
  - He studied under the famed rabbi, Gamaliel. He was a brilliant law student.
  - He would have longed to one day be on the Sanhedrin, which was the Jewish Supreme Court of that day.

- As a pious Pharisee, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, he would've listened angrily as Peter, an unlearned fisherman, proclaimed that Jesus of Nazareth was Israel's Messiah, God and Savior! Read Ephesians 5:29-33.
  - The rise of this little band of Jesus-followers was a threat to everything Saul stood for. Persecution arose in Jerusalem and blood began to fill the streets of Jerusalem. Saul was present when Stephen was martyred. Read Acts 7:57-8:1.
  - Saul became the chief persecutor of the Church. Read Acts 8:3-4.
- Read Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8.
3. Jesus told His early Jewish followers to go and make disciples of all ethnic groups (nations) in Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8 to fulfill Genesis 12:1-3. They did not.
- Racism and comfort are hard habits to break. Instead of obeying Jesus and taking His Gospel to the Gentiles, the early Jewish followers stayed in Jerusalem. God then uses a madman named Saul to persecute the Christ-followers in Jerusalem, forcing them to be missionaries to the Gentiles (Acts 8).
4. What did you think when Pastor Derwin said *"Don't force God to make you a missionary"*?
- Pastor Derwin said, "Spiritual consumerism is the curse of this age. Jesus doesn't exist for us. We, the Church, exist for Jesus and His mission. Jesus transforms us so we can become His agents of transformation. We actually become the vehicle by which His grace is taken to those who are yet to meet Him." What are the practical implications of this?
  - Transformation Church – or any biblical church – is never meant to become "established" and "settled." When that happens, the power of God will leave the church. Instead of the church being a missionary movement, it will be a dead museum of empty religion.
  - TC is attempting the impossible by becoming one church in three locations so that the power of God will display the "Him-possible" as more people are transformed by His grace. Take a moment and cry out to God, asking Him to extend the vision of TC through the two new multi-sites.
5. **Back to Saul:** It's hard to imagine that the same hands that were responsible for the deaths of innocent men—hands that dripped with innocent blood—are the same hands that God used to

pen the theological gem called the book of Romans, the towering book of Ephesians, the soul-liberating book of Galatians, and 10 other New Testament books.

- How does this happen? Read Acts 26:9-11.
- The Apostle Paul is an example of, “Where you come from DOES NOT determine where you are going.” What do you think Jesus wants to do in your life in 2012 for His glory?

6. Read Acts 29:12-30.

- What are the practical implications for your life of Pastor Derwin’s statement, “You’ve been sovereignly crafted for God’s glory”?
- God wants to take your old passions, just like He did with Paul, and make them new.
  - Pray for God to set your table with new passions, new hope, and new opportunities to make Him famous.

**Soul-tattoo:** Grow in grace and missionary-effectiveness by participating in the 5 characteristics of a Transformer (disciple/student of Jesus).

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