



Paul defends his Ministry

Galatians 1:11-24

Where did the gospel Paul preached come from?

➤ Galatians 1:11-12

➤ For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Who is Paul separating himself from in 11&12?

- Let's read Acts 9:1-30 for some background.
- Paul may have met the apostles in Jerusalem, but he was preaching what Jesus taught him, not anything the apostles taught him.
- The Judaizers were accusing Paul of simply being a mouthpiece for Jesus' apostles, not a *true* apostle, but Paul recounts his history to refute that.

Paul recounts his calling

- Galatians 1:13-14 - Paul remembers his past
- Acts 9:1&2 - Paul's past recorded
- Acts 22:3-5 - Paul recounts his past in his defense
- What does Paul tell us about himself thus far?

Paul was called to preach Christ's gospel

- Galatians 1:15
- Jeremiah 1:5 - a prophet called from the womb
- Isaiah 49:1-6 - a prophet called from the womb
- Luke 1:13-17 - a prophet called from the womb
- Romans 9:6-24 - God calls who He wills!

- Galatians 1:16-'To reveal his son in me'
- Two meanings. Paul's job to reveal Jesus to others.
- Jesus is revealed to Paul in his mind for 3 years in Arabia, teaching Paul of Christ's ministry, life, death, and resurrection.
- God predetermined Paul would preach to the Gentiles

- Galatians 1:15-17 - Paul was not taught by men, but by God
- Paul acknowledges Jesus' apostles as such, but also claims to be one - 'who were apostles before me'
- Paul went away for a time, to be taught personally by Christ, not by man.
- These statements refute the Judaizers claim that Paul was man taught, and a man-pleaser.

Reading between the lines in Acts 9

- Let us again read acts 9:19-30
- When his time in Arabia was fulfilled, Paul did not go up to Jerusalem to receive instruction from the apostles, but continued to preach in Damascus. He learned persecution here at Damascus first.
- 2 Corinthians 11:31-33

Paul meets with Peter for 15 days - Galatians 1-18-20

- There is no way Peter could impart upon Paul, the entire gospel of Christ in 15 days, as Christ had done so for Peter over a period of 3 years.
- Here Paul tells Peter of his calling and Peter tells Paul of his calling and each share their experience of seeing the resurrected Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:5
- Paul has already been preaching for 3 years!
- Acts 9:26-30 Paul is occupied with other things as well

Paul departs for Cilicia (Tarsus) and Syria

- Acts 9:30 - Paul leaves for Tarsus
- Acts 22:17-21 - Jesus instructs Paul to leave
- Acts 11:25-26 - Paul brought by Barnabas to Antioch, a city in Syria
- Places so remote, no apostle was teaching Paul there.

Paul spends 14 years away from Jerusalem's influence

- Galatians 1:21-22, 2:1
- Paul was gone so long, no one recognized him personally, from the churches of Judea
- The Judaizers would have to overcome this large bit of evidence to prove that Jerusalem and Jesus' apostles had any influence on Paul's message.

Paul was still known and thought of as good

- The churches of Judea may not recognize his face, but they were hearing of his message and his deeds.
- Paul had changed. He 'once' persecuted Christians but now he preached Christ
- Nothing derogatory said about Paul by these churches. Nothing bad about his gospel, apostleship, or his relation to other apostles.

What faith was it Paul preached?

- Galatians 1:23 'preaching the faith he once tried to destroy'
- The same faith the 12 apostles and their disciples were preaching. (Without apostle influence)
- Judaizer's claims of man-pleasing fall dead if he is preaching that which they despised -- the salvation in Christ through faith, not works.
- Judean Christians recognized Paul's message as truth

Looking back

- Why was Paul called to be an apostle?
- How come he was such a good choice?
- Who would appreciate his 'about-face' the most?

Next week

- Galatians 2:1-10 - The Jerusalem Counsel