

Paul Defends the Truth of His Gospel (Gal. 1:11-24)

In this section, Paul is demonstrating that he did not receive his apostleship through any human agent, nor was he subject to any man throughout his post-conversion ministry. He was supernaturally called and commissioned by Christ to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. When he did go to Jerusalem, it was never to seek confirmation from other Apostles. Although the recounting of Paul's post-conversion life gives evidence to his authority (and hence the truthfulness of his gospel), it also shows us the transformative effect the true gospel has in man's life.

I. The Origin of the Paul's Gospel (11-12)

A. The Gospel was Not Given to Him by Men (11-12a)

1. It is not According to man
2. It is not received from man
3. It is not taught by men
 - a. In the sense of origin – It wasn't developed by man
 - b. It is preached and spread but it originates with God
 - c. Paul is defending His calling as an Apostle

B. The Gospel was Given to Him by Christ (12b)

1. Christ Himself gave the gospel
2. Paul received it by direct revelation

II. The Effect of Paul's gospel (13-17)

A. Paul's Previous Life (13-14)

1. Paul had been a persecutor of the church (13)
 - a. He persecuted beyond measure
 - b. He tried to destroy it
 1. There is no neutrality
 2. Either love the church or hate it
 3. "World hates the church" (1 John 3:13)
 4. The lost are enmity against God
2. Paul had been Zealous in Religion
 - a. Doing better than his contemporaries
 - b. Keeping his ancestors traditions
 1. The religious mind is working for their good
 2. By "doing" they make up for the bad
 3. They refuse to admit their depravity
 4. Paul actually thought he was doing God's will

B. Paul's New Life (15-17)

1. Paul's Calling (15-16)

- a. God set Him apart from his mother's womb
- b. Called him through grace
- c. Revealed his Son in Paul
- d. Sent him to preach among Gentiles
 1. Incredible conversion experience
 2. Same as yours
 3. Called, drew, converted, enlisted

2. Paul's Confidence (16b-17)

- a. Paul didn't need to be validated
- b. Paul did not go to Jerusalem in order to seek authority
- c. He went on the authority of Christ
 - 1. No need for you to be validated to serve Christ
 - 2. Spirit bears witness with yours
 - 3. You have a mission from Christ (not men)

3. Paul's Mission (17b)

- a. Paul immediately went about the mission to Arabia
- b. So must we
- c. Arabia was the Nabatean Kingdom, ruled by Aretas. Aretas actually sought to kill Paul and had his governor over Damascus watch for him in the city there (2 Co. 11:32-33)
- d. Paul was sought by them because he had been preaching

III. The Witness of Paul's Gospel (18-24)

A. Paul was not instructed by Men

- 1. Paul went to Jerusalem and met Peter
 - a. This was three years after his conversion and after he was already preaching
 - b. He saw no other Apostles – and only stayed 15 days, not nearly enough time to be instructed or disciplined as an evangelist
 - c. He did not seek validation from Apostles

2. We have God's Word

- a. Not that we don't submit or learn from men
- b. Source of our mission not in man
- c. Source of our confidence not in man
- d. Source of our assurance not in man

B. Paul's Testimony Demonstrated His Gospel

- 1. Paul Left Jerusalem and went to Syria and Cilicia – (Antioch and Tarsus were the major cities of each region)
- 2. His testimony and ministry was known all the way back in Judea
 - a. However, the Judean church didn't know him by sight
 - b. He had no personal ministry around Judea
 - c. Paul did not receive authority from the Jerusalem Apostles, he had only scarcely met two and was personally unknown among the Jerusalem church.
- 3. People glorified God because of Paul's Testimony
 - a. The Gospel results in a testimony
 - b. It results in a changed life
 - c. It results in a noticeable way of life.

IV. The Support of Paul's Gospel (2:1-10)

A. Paul's Gospel is Submitted in Jerusalem (1-2)

- 1. Paul went to Jerusalem by revelation much later (1-2a)
 - a. Only after 14 years of preaching and teaching did Paul go to Jerusalem to discuss the gospel

- b. Paul went, not because he was summoned, but because God told him to go by revelation (2a)
 - 2. Paul presented his gospel to the Jerusalem Church (2)
 - a. Paul did not question as to whether his gospel was correct, he received it from Christ Himself – He simply told them what he was preaching among the Gentiles
 - b. Paul presented the gospel to them in private
 - c. Paul was concerned about the unity of the church – he did not go to make sure he had been preaching correctly, he went to make sure they understood that there was no Jewish and Gentile church. There was only one church.
- B. Paul's Gospel is Vindicated Against False Brethren (3-5)
 - 1. Paul's Companion was not compelled to be Circumcised (3)
 - a. The Jerusalem Apostles didn't even say Paul's ministry companion had to be circumcised
 - b. This was a perfect Test case. Titus was a Greek, but also a Christian. The Church said he was right with God without being circumcised
 - 2. Paul Fought for the Truth Against the False Brethren (4-5)
 - a. False brethren were spying their liberty and trying to bring them back into bondage
 - b. Paul and the Apostles did not yield to them for a moment
 - c. The Apostles are too concerned with preserving the truth of the gospel.
 - 3. Paul's gospel is Acknowledged by the Apostles (6-10)
 - a. The Apostles of Jerusalem Added nothing to Paul's Gospel (6)
 - b. The Apostles Recognized Paul's Calling (7-8)
 - i. They saw that God entrusted him with the gospel to the Gentiles
 - ii. They recognized his calling as they recognized Peter's
 - iii. They said the same God that commissioned Peter, commissioned Paul
 - c. The Apostles Supported Paul's Gospel (9-10)
 - i. The pillars of the church offered Paul fellowship in ministry
 - ii. The pillars of the church recognized he would go to the Gentiles
 - iii. The pillars of the church only asked that they would remember the poor.
 - Gentile churches often had at least a few wealthy people. The Jewish church in Jerusalem was almost completely destitute because of the social situation involving Christianity.

