

II- Development of the Pure Gospel Galatians 1:11-24

Galatians 1:11-24 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. 21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: 23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. 24 And they glorified God in me.

Our third session brings us to the Development of the Pure Gospel. We saw in the last session that the gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This section is seen by many as the defense of the apostleship of the Apostle Paul. This in my opinion is not as much Paul's defense of himself and his apostleship and authority as it is his defense of the pure gospel. Paul is quick and clear to point out he did not get the gospel from the Apostles but from God. To defend the pure gospel Paul defends himself and the process of the development of the gospel. Next session we will study in more detail the defense of the gospel.

How did Paul develop his theology? Where did he get the gospel from? Was Paul an imposture who passed himself off as God's man? Notice with me if you would:

Outline: Development of the Pure Gospel Galatians 1:11-24

A- The Gospel Came From God and Not Man Galatians 1:11-12

B- Paul the Zealous Man Galatians 1:13-14

1- Arch Persecutor of the Church: Act_9:1-3 ; Act_22:4

2- Stoning of Stephen: Act_7:58

3- Keeper of the Law: Act_26:4-5

C- Called by Grace Galatians 1:15-16 a

D- Arabia To Seminary Galatians 1:17

E- Finally to Jerusalem Galatians 1:18-19

F- Syria and Cilicia Ministry Galatians 1:21-24

A- The Gospel Came From God and Not Man Galatians 1:11-12

The key verses in this section are verses Galatians 1:11-12, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Paul makes it plain that he did not receive the gospel from any source other than the God of heaven. We could have called this section the Divine Gospel. He says that he, "conferred not with flesh and blood." He is emphatic in the fact that the gospel comes from God and not man.

B- Paul the Zealous Man Galatians 1:13-14

1- Arch Persecutor of the Church: Act_9:1-3 ; Act_22:4

Paul was a very religious nut during the time prior to his conversion. He was the arch enemy of the church. He thought that he was doing the will of God by persecuting the church and attempting to eradicate it from the face of the earth. Act_29:9-11 is a good summation of his work of persecutor. He says, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceeding mad against them even unto strange cities." Paul was a mad man who thought he was doing right when in fact he was being used of Satan.

2- Stoning of Stephen: Act_7:58

We have recorded in Acts 7 the stoning of Stephen. Act_7:58 is a small almost insignificant verse that seems to have been placed in as a matter of passing thought that is significant. Paul, then known as Saul, was a part to the stoning of Stephen.

3- Keeper of the Law: Act_26:4-5

"My manner of life from my youth,.... Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived as a Pharisee." (My underline for emphasis) Paul was a keeper of the Law of Moses and was well educated in the law from a youth.

C- Called by Grace Galatians 1:15-16 a

(BUT...GOD) is the roadblock in the path of Paul. We have the conversion of the most unlikely man maybe who ever lived recorded in Acts 9 and Acts 22. In fact even after he was saved he was suspect by the churches because of his former life of persecutor. We see the providence of God and His sovereign call on Paul's life was recognized by Paul as being before he was born. God had a purpose for Paul's life Notice Paul in Act_9:20 "straightway... preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

D- Arabia To Seminary Galatians 1:17

"Arabia was the term applied by Greek writers from Herodotus down, to the whole or various portions of the vast peninsula between the Red Sea on the southwest, the Persian Gulf on the southeast, and the Euphrates River on the northeast." 12

Now I in no way am suggesting that Paul went to a school in the traditional sense. He did however go into the desert of Arabia and was taught by the Holy Spirit. As we can see from the territory that Arabia covered he did not have to go far from Damascus. He probably went to a place where he could be alone with God. Someone has said he, "Went into Arabia with the Law and the Prophets and came out with Galatians and Romans."

He mentions that he went into Arabia because, "No apostle was to be found there. No one was there who could inform him about the Lord and His saving work." 13 We see here again that he could not have been given the gospel by the apostles at Jerusalem. I remind us that Paul was well educated and understood the Old Testament very well indeed. As Paul went into the desert can there be little doubt that the Holy Spirit used the Old Testament scriptures to teach Paul. "This zealous student of the Law now pondered the meaning of his conversion and looked for the

things concerning Christ in the Old Testament (cf. Luk_24:27). The product of these days in Arabia was the Christian theology that Paul explained in his epistle to the Romans." 14

As I have suggested Paul was taught the New Testament's theology by the Old Testament in light of his conversion and Christ death and resurrection. There is no doubt that the Old Testament, rightly understood, preaches Jesus. Notice in Jerusalem, on the occasion of the impotent man being healed on the Sabbath, Christ told the Jews in Joh_5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Luk_24:44 Jesus says, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." We can see that every major division that the Jews gave the scriptures, Law, Prophets and Psalms (or wisdom literature) included the teachings of Christ. Paul was simply given an understand of the things that had been hide before Christ that were in the Old Testament all along.

E- Finally to Jerusalem Galatians 1:18-19

Three years after his conversion is the first time that Paul visited Jerusalem. He has spent this time in Arabia and Damascus. There is at least two good reasons that we can safely say that Paul did not get the gospel from Peter on this visit. First he was only there for 15 days and in such a short time they could have done little more than get acquainted.

Second, "Peter had not yet experienced the important vision convincing him that the gospel was for Gentiles as well as Jews (Ac 10)." 15 We know that Peter was a very strong Jew and would have had nothing to add to the Gospel of Paul. We know that the Jews were already hot on the trail of Paul by this time however because Act_9:23 tells us that the Jews were trying to kill him in Damascus and then in Jerusalem Act_9:29 records, "And he (being Paul) spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed with the Grecians: but they went about to slay him." The brethren brought him and sent him back to Tarsus.

F- Syria and Cilicia Ministry Galatians 1:21-24

Syria and Cilicia lie geographically north of Jerusalem and Israel in Asia Minor. These areas were far away from the Apostles and Paul ministered totally independent of these men. (See Act_11:22-30 for Paul's work there.) Paul was almost an unknown man to the churches in Judaea according to Galatians 1:22 during this period.

Irving Jensen says the following concerning this ministry in Syria and Cilicia: "No details are given in the New Testament about Paul's ten years of ministering in Syria and Cilicia at this time (A.D. 36-46). It is interesting to observe that places like Tarsus, Paul's hometown, were not evangelized on any of Paul's three missionary journeys (A.D. 47-56). This may be because of the decade of ministry reported in Galatians 1:21-24 . The Act_15:41 passage about "confirming the churches" of Syria and Cilicia on Paul's second journey is seen by some to refer at least partly to churches earlier evangelized during the years of Galatians 1:21 ." 16

Another interesting side note is the gospel was and had to be of God because the same gospel developed independently in both Jerusalem by the apostles and in the north with Paul.

To Summarize the teachings of this section notice again:

- 1- The Gospel came from God and not man.
- 2- The Apostles did not give the gospel to Paul.
- 3- The Gospel is simply the fulfillment of what has always been taught in God's word.