

Read Galatians 1:11-12

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. Fill in the blank.

The gospel preached by Paul is not _____ gospel.

Paul did not receive the gospel from any _____.

Paul was not taught _____.

2. How did Paul receive the gospel?

- 3.** The word translated “revelation” is the Greek word ἀποκάλυψις (apokalupsis). In ancient Greek, it meant to uncover such as “uncover one’s head” or “uncover a hidden passage.” Yet, by the time of New Testament Greek it means to uncover a hidden mystery. **What do you think Paul means when he says he received a revelation of Jesus Christ? (For help cross reference: 2 Cor 12:1; Eph 3:3)**

Read Galatians 1:13-14

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

4. Fill in the Blank

Paul's former life was in _____

He _____ the church of God _____ and tried to _____ it

Paul was advanced in _____ beyond many of his own _____

He was _____ for the _____ of his fathers

- 5. How would you describe Paul's relationship to Judaism in his former life? How would you describe his relationship to Christianity (“the church of God”) in his former life?**
- 6.** In the letter of Galatians, Paul argues against the “Judaizers”, those who believe true Christians should follow the laws of Judaism. **How does Paul's background allow him to speak with power against the Judaizers?**
- 7. How does his former life support his previous argument that he did not receive the gospel from men?**

Read Galatians 1:15-16

15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

- 8. What three things has God done for Paul in this passage? “But when he who...”**
- a. He set _____
 - b. He called _____
 - c. He was pleased to _____

- 9. After God revealed to Paul the truth about Jesus Christ, whom to Paul immediately consult with?**

Read Galatians 1:17

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

- 10. Did Paul get his gospel from those who were apostles before him in Jerusalem?**

Read Gal 1:18-20

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. 20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

- 11. Did Paul meet with many apostles and receive his authority to preach the gospel from them?**

Read Galatians 1:21-24

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” 24 And they glorified God because of me.

- 12. Did Paul meet with the churches of Judea face to face before going to Syria and Cilicia?**

Read Galatians 2:1-3

2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

- 13. Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem after fourteen years? Was he summoned by men to be cross-examined or led by God?**

- 14. Did Paul go up to receive a new gospel or to confirm the gospel he already preached?**

- 15. Did the church in Jerusalem force Greeks like Titus to be circumcised according to the Jewish custom?**

Read Galatians 2:6

6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

Circle True or False

- 16. Being an influential leader makes a difference to Paul**
True or False
- 17. God shows favor and partiality towards certain men, ethnicities, and traditions.**
True or False
- 18. The influential leaders of Jerusalem told Paul to add circumcision and other religious works as a requirement for the gospel.**
True or False

Read Galatians 2:7-10

7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

19. In verse 7, the apostles saw that Paul had been _____ with the gospel, just as Peter had been _____ with the gospel.

20. Read verse 8 again. Who do you think entrusts the message of the gospel and gospel ministry to men?

21. True or False: The apostles of Jerusalem extended fellowship to Paul and Barnabas?
True or False

22. True or False: In verse 10, the only additional requirement the apostles gave to Paul and Barnabas was to make sure the Gentiles followed the Old Testament law?
True or False

Bonus Questions

Read Acts 14:26-15:1

22. In Acts 15:1, where do the “some men” come from? What are they teaching?

23. The book of Galatians seems to take place during this debate in Antioch, leading eventually to the Jerusalem council in Acts 15:3-21. In the sections we have studied this morning, **why do you think Paul has distanced himself from Judea in Galatians 1:11-2:10? What perhaps were these “men from Judea” claiming the apostles taught?**

24. Read Gal 2:11-14. How does Cephas’ (another name for Peter) actions in Galatians 2:11-14 support these Judaizer’s claims of following OT law?

Group Application:

- 1. What truth resonated most with you as you studied Galatians 1:11-2:10?**

- 2. What's difficult about trusting a divine message delivered by fallible humans?**

- 3. How have you seen or heard people abuse the "God told me this" or "God wanted me to" language? If someone claims to be speaking for God, what are some ways you could evaluate the truthfulness of their claim?**

- 4. God validated the scripture through performing signs and wonders at the hands of the apostles and prophets. Why was it important for God to establish firmly that these writings came from Him and not from man?**

- 5. Some claim the church and its leaders gave us the Bible. In what ways is this response true, and in what ways does it matter? Why does it matter (*hint Gal 2:11*)?**

- 6. Although the scriptures were penned by humans, they were also inspired by the God who made heavens and earth. How can you put more value in the Words of God than the words of men?**

- 7. Share requests and pray for one another! Specifically pray that we would desire God's word more and more**