

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 1:11-24

Lesson 2

In this section of Galatians, Paul carefully presents His calling as an apostle. Paul did not invent the Gospel, nor did he receive it from men; but he received the Gospel from Jesus Christ. Both his message and his apostolic ministry were divinely given. The best way for Paul to prove his point is to reach into his past and remind the Galatian Christians of the way God had dealt with him. Paul states that his past life was already known to his readers and points to the changes in his life wrought by the gospel. How encouraging it is that God can use the failures of our past to reveal His awesome glory.

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 1:11-24

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 1:11-24 has been divided into two paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Galatians 1:11-17

Galatians 1:18-24

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 1.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God, Jesus, grace, and gospel*

New to this lesson: *faith and Gentiles*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 1:11-24. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Paul used the contrasting term *but* six times in this section. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.

4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 1:11,12

1. Paul continued his defense of the gospel in Galatians 1:11,12. What did Paul want to *make known*?
 - a. Although Paul's words have been stern in previous verses, he calls them *brethren*. What does this say to you about Paul's heart and attitude toward them?
2. Paul, answering the accusation of those who claimed his message was not authentic, declares that the *gospel* he preached was not *according to man* (not something he made up). Verify this by completing his statements recorded in Galatians 1:12a.

For I neither _____

nor _____
3. No human instrument was involved in Paul's receiving authority as an apostle (Galatians 1:1) nor in receiving the message he preached. Record the source of his message by printing Galatians 1:12c here.
4. The meaning of the verbs *received* and *taught* in Greek indicated that the message was not communicated in general nor was it learned through human instruction. The *gospel* Paul preached he received by direct revelation from Jesus. How should the knowledge of the origin of the *gospel* Paul preached bring great assurance and confidence?
 - a. In what way does it bring assurance knowing the disciples that walked with Jesus approved of Paul's teachings?

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 1:13,14

1. At this point Paul begins to relate a portion of his personal life. In Galatians 1:13,14 he depicts his past before he met Christ. He recognizes they *have heard of his former conduct*. They knew that *conduct* was based on *Judaism*. Write Paul's somber admission as recorded in Galatians 1:13b.

- a. How do the following verses describe Paul's (Saul's) actions toward the church?

Acts 8:3

Acts 9:1,2

Acts 22:4,5

Acts 22:19,20

Acts 26:9-11

- b. Reflect on the gravity of Paul's words: *I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it*. Galatians 1:13b Share your thoughts.

2. Before his conversion, Paul was among the church's worst persecutors as he zealously practiced his Jewish beliefs. Observe some of his personal achievements in the Jewish religion in Galatians 1:14 NIV. *I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers*. What additional information concerning Paul's background do the following scriptures provide?

Acts 26:4,5

Philippians 3:5,6

3. From a human perspective, what hope would anyone have had that this zealous Jew and persecutor of the church would become a believer in Jesus Christ? All of us can think of someone who seems unlikely to become a Christian. How does Paul's transformation encourage you to keep praying and believing for that person?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 1:15-17

1. Galatians 1:15-17 is one long sentence. In Galatians 1:15, the conjunction *but* signifies an abrupt change. Thoughtfully print this verse phrase by phrase.
2. *But, when it pleased God... and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me*, (verses 15,16) refers to the dramatic conversion of Paul on the Damascus Road. Write a short news report of this awesome encounter from Acts 9:1-9.
 - a. Record one or two interesting events pertaining to Paul's conversion from Acts 9:10-18.
 - b. How does Acts 9:15 support Paul's commission in Galatians 1:16: *that I might preach Him among the Gentiles*?
3. Paul's life was radically transformed from the moment he met Jesus Christ. How has your life changed since you first met Him?
4. *...I did not rush out to consult with anyone else...*Galatians 1:16 NLT Paul did not consult with anyone to obtain instruction or advice after his conversion. What else does Galatians 1:17a declare about this?
 - a. How would this strengthen his assertion that the message he preached was not from man but directly from God?
 - 1.) How do you think this would have strengthened his faith and confirmed him to the other apostles when Paul was able to declare to them the same gospel they received from Jesus?
 - a.) What would you tell someone who misused this passage, stating that they did not need to confer with man, that God had revealed truths directly to them, yet those "truths" contradicted Scripture?

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 1:18-24

1. Galatians 1:18,19 tell us what Paul did *after three years*. From these verses answer the following questions:
 - a. Where did Paul go?
 - b. Who did he see?
 - c. How long was he there?
2. What emphatic statement did Paul make in Galatians 1:20?
3. *Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.* Galatians 1:21 It is thought that Paul spent about 14 years in this region. Because of this Paul *was unknown by face to the churches of Judea* Galatians 1:22. According to Galatians 1:23, what did they know about Paul?
4. What affect did Paul's changed life have on these believers? Galatians 1:24
 - a. How did Paul's life bring glory to God?
 - b. People who are familiar with your past don't tend to forget it, even though you have changed. How is Paul's testimony and the response of believers who knew his past an encouragement to you?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:8-10. Record what Paul wrote about himself.
 - a. What can we learn from this?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 1:11-24

1. What is revealed about the gospel in Galatians 1:11,12?
 - a. How has the study of the authenticity of the gospel encouraged your faith?
2. Recall one thing that particularly ministered to you about Paul from the following paragraphs:
Galatians 1:13-17

Galatians 1:18-24
3. Paul had a clear sense of his calling; how do you feel about God's imprint on your life?
4. Paul did not want the believers to fall prey to the legalism that so bound him in the past. How do failures of your past prompt you to want to protect others from the same mistake?
5. In what way has this lesson challenged or encouraged you?

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...

- 1 Corinthians 11:23



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