

Galatians 1:11–24

- 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.
- 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.
- 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
- 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,
- 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.
- 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.
- 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.
- 20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)
- 21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.
- 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.
- 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."
- 24 And they glorified God in me.

The Gospel Paul Preached **Galatians 1:11–24**

INTRO:

After warning us about proclaiming a gospel which is not a gospel at all, Paul told us the nature and power of the Gospel he preached. These who opposed the Apostle Paul and his Gospel opposed God who gave the Gospel and changed Paul's entire life through it.

I. I received my Gospel from God Directly (v. 11-12)

II. This Gospel Changed Me (v. 13-21)

I. I received my Gospel from God Directly (v. 11-12)

Galatians 1:11-12 ***"[For] I make known to you, brethren, 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 it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ."***

A. The trouble makers who allegedly came from James no doubt claimed their "gospel," which was no gospel at all, came from the traditions of the fathers. They no doubt implied Paul got his Gospel from the Apostles and then adapted it to fit the Gentiles.

B. To this Paul answers, unmistakably, his Gospel came directly from God through revelation. Paul went the extra mile to make his claim clear. He wrote: ***"the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man."*** No human being dreamed this up, nor indeed, would anyone come up with this. We are inclined to find something we can do to earn favor from God. He wrote again: ***"For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it."*** For Paul to have received the Gospel from the Apostles meant someone had to teach it to him. No one did. Finally, it came by revelation directly by Christ. ***"It came through the revelation of Jesus Christ."***

C. When did this revelation happen?

II. This Gospel Changed Me (v. 13-21)

verses 13-14 ***"For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers."***

A. To understand the timing and transforming power of this revelation we need to begin where Paul was.

"For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it."

1. Paul was so committed to the "traditions of the fathers," that he became a super Pharisee.

“And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers”

2. The Apostol Paul did not soften and slowly change to the point in which he was willing to entertain the truth of the Gospel. Paul hated the church. He hated Christians, and he hated Christ. **Acts 9:1-2** describes him on the road to Damascus,

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of ‘the Way,’ whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

Paul was not softening, he was as hard as he ever was.

B. Then something happened.

vs.15-17 ***“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, [in order] that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.”***

1. Paul insisted the change which happened to him did not happen by chance or by accident. God chose me from him from before his birth to be an apostle and preacher and called him by His grace and revealed His Son in Him. Luke repeats Paul’s described this moment in **Acts 26:13–18**.

“At midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you.’”

2. Saul the persecutor came face to face with the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. He was face to face with the undisputable proof of the Gospel. He was saved and commissioned at the very same moment. Saul the persecutor became Paul the proclaimer of the Gospel he tried to destroy. Paul says, this Gospel changed me.

C. Now what did Paul do after he was transformed by this Gospel?

vs.16b-17 ***“I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.”***

Paul got alone with God and no doubt received future revelation the Lord promised so he was equipped to preach the Gospel.

1. Then after three years he went to Jerusalem to meet Peter.

“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”

I did not go to get instruction from Peter. I came to get to know the Apostle to the Jewish people.

2. Paul pauses to call God as his witness that he is telling the truth.

“(Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)”

These who said, Paul got the Gospel wrong no doubt said Paul made up his testimony as he went along. Paul answers these charges by calling God as his witness.

3. He closed the last part of his first chapter by describing his early ministry.

“Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, ‘He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.’ And they glorified God in me.”

D. There is a clear problem for Paul’s detractors here. If Paul’s Gospel is wrong what happened to Paul? Paul’s Gospel is real because God Himself gave it to Paul. Its reality is seen in what that Gospel did in Paul. This is radical stuff.

What Do We Take from This?

1. The Gospel we preach and we believe did not come through the brilliant thoughts of a man. It is God’s Gospel and it is good news because through this Gospel we can be saved and have a relationship with the thrice holy God. Paul lived in a day when philosophy which came from men ruled the day, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle for the Gentiles and the great Rabbis for the Jews. The only Gospel came from God.

2. This divine Gospel is life changing because it is about God the Son and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.

3. How about you and me? Can we point back to a time in our life when God changed us through His Gospel?