

The Truth of the Gospel

Galatians 1:18-2:10

February 24, 2019

Paul authored 13 books in the New Testament

➤ Paul often used an amanuensis/secretary

- **Jeremiah 36:4** Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him.
- **Romans 16:22** I, Tertius, who write this letter, greet you in the Lord.
- **1 Peter 5:12** Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. The urgency of turning to a false gospel forces Paul to write with his own hand using boxcar style letters.

Purpose of Galatians

Paul warns the Galatians not to tolerate any addition to the gospel of grace, particularly ritual circumcision, because a Gentile following Jesus does not need first to become a Jew.

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

1. Author (1:1-2a)

○ Paul (1:1)

- Paul defends his apostolic authority by showing that he was commissioned by the highest authority: the risen, living Lord

○ All the brethren who are with me (1:2a)

- Other believers concur with the Pauline gospel

2. Audience (1:2b)

○ The local churches in southern Galatia

3. Greeting (1:3-5)

○ All praise to God for the work of the cross

- Paul begins and ends Galatians by boasting in the cross (Gal. 6:14)
- Paul persuades the Galatians to reject the false teachers because of the work of the cross

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

B. Rebuke: the occasion of the letter (1:6-10)

Where we would normally expect to find an apostolic blessing, we hear instead an apostolic curse!

1. Paul's amazement at their departure (1:6-7)

- Leaving the biblical gospel is deserting God Himself

2. A curse on those who proclaim or receive a false gospel (1:8-9)

- The truth of the message depends on its content (whether it accords with the gospel), not the credentials of the messenger (1:8)
- So that you don't lead others astray, may God damn your soul to hell right now! (1:8-9)

3. Paul's model of not trying to please people (1:10)

- Paul does not accommodate the gospel so that his hearers would find it acceptable (1:10)

II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

1. Jesus Christ personally taught Paul the gospel (1:11-12)

- Paul's gospel was not invented by humans
 - Humans always invent a gospel of works in order to glorify themselves

2. Paul's former life in Judaism (1:13-14)

- Paul used to persecute the church (1:13)
- Paul advanced in Judaism (1:14)
 - Paul was not influenced by the biblical gospel prior to conversion

3. Paul's present life in the church (1:15-17)

- God graciously saved Paul so he would preach the gospel (1:15-16a)
 - Only divine intervention through the biblical gospel would radically change Paul's life
- For the first 3 years, Paul did not consult with other people (1:16b-17)

II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

- 1. Jesus Christ personally taught Paul the gospel (1:11-12)**
- 2. Paul's former life in Judaism (1:13-14)**
- 3. Paul's present life in the church (1:15-17)**
- 4. Paul did not visit with the Apostles in Jerusalem until 3 years after his conversion (1:18-20)**
 - Therefore, Paul could not have learned the gospel from the 12 (1:18)
 - Paul's knowledge of the gospel does not depend on his relationship to the 12
 - Paul minimized his contact with the Jerusalem apostles (1:19)
 - Because the Judaizers have accused Paul of lying, he directly asserts his honesty (1:20)

Paul's Pre-Conversion and Post-Conversion Travels



II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

- 1. Jesus Christ personally taught Paul the gospel (1:11-12)**
- 2. Paul's former life in Judaism (1:13-14)**
- 3. Paul's present life in the church (1:15-17)**
- 4. Paul did not visit with the Apostles in Jerusalem until 3 years after his conversion (1:18-20)**
- 5. Paul left the company of the apostles (1:21-24)**
 - Paul traveled to Syria and Cilicia (1:21)
 - By leaving the apostles, Paul shows how little contact he had with them. Therefore, no one can accuse Paul of learning the gospel from the apostles.
 - While the Judean churches did not know what Paul looked like, they heard about Paul preaching the biblical gospel (1:22-23)
 - The churches in Judea praised God for what He was doing through Paul (1:24)
 - The Judean churches did not accuse Paul of preaching a false gospel

II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

B. The Apostles endorse Paul's ministry and gospel (2:1-10)

1. Paul travels to Jerusalem (2:1-5)

- Paul arrived in Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus (2:1-2a)
 - Paul did not travel to Jerusalem to learn the gospel (2:2a)
- In Jerusalem, Paul shared the gospel with the Pillars (2:2b)
 - If the apostles rejected Paul's gospel, then his ministry was in vain
- Paul's gospel did not require Titus to be circumcised (2:3-5)
 - The false brethren compelled Titus to be circumcised (2:4)
 - The apostles did not require Titus to be circumcised (2:5)

2. The Pillars gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (2:6-10)

- The Pillars did not alter Paul's gospel (2:6)
- Instead of changing Paul's message, the Pillars endorsed Paul's ministry and gospel (2:7-9)
 - The Pillars saw the effectiveness of Paul's ministry (2:7-8)
 - The Pillars recognized the hand of God in what happened when Paul preached among the Gentiles (2:9a)
- The Pillars asked Paul and Barnabas to remember the poor (2:10)

**Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone,
in Christ alone.**

**Adding any religious/ceremonial work results in a
message that does not save.**