

Bible Study: Galatians 1:1-17
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

The believers at Galatia were converted Gentiles, and they were confused because of their reception of Judaizers. **Who were these people?** *What were their demands upon the believers?* And, how do you suppose they were successful?

According to **Ephesians 2:8-9**, what is the source of our salvation?

Read: **Galatians 1:6-7** -

⁶I marvel that you are turning away **so soon** from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷which is not another; **but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

How many gospels are there anyway? *Why was he amazed at their behavior?*

These people were *not the only ones* Paul was troubled over in this regard, for in _____ we read:

For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin to Christ*. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from **the simplicity** that is in Christ.

Paul stressed that he and Barnabas had shared the genuine gospel, by writing these words in **verses 8-9**:

⁸**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.** ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, **if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**

Seemingly, the Judaizers had accused him of trying to be a “men-pleaser” *rather than* a “God-pleaser.” They evidently accused him of not being faithful to the whole gospel – for they would have to keep all the laws of the Jews.

Consider **v. 10** (NLT) we read: ¹⁰ Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant. *Continuing, he says:* 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.*

This is much like we see elsewhere, such as in _____ –

²³ **For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you:** that the Lord Jesus *on the same night* in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same manner *He also took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

How did he know what was said? Was he there? Christ revealed this to him in revelation through the Holy Spirit.

In fact, **divine revelation played a prominent role** in the life of *Paul – as it can with YOU* – from the moment Jesus got a hold of him. Recall _____ –

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² 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.

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

⁵ And he said, “**Who are You, Lord?**”

Then the Lord said, “**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**”

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord said to him, “**Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.**”

Returning to our text in **Galatians 1:13**, having stated that he was employed by God, who also gave to him the gospel he preached, **having received it from God through divine encounter & revelation...**

Paul now speaks regarding his qualifications in the eyes of man... in comparison to his “usability” in the eyes of the Lord...

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;**

After reading **Philippians 3:4-9**, what word best described Paul’s regard for human wisdom and earthly possessions?

What have you counted as loss? *What do you NEED to count as loss?*

In what way do you have a common calling with Paul?