

career so different and so glorious. But next there was the revelation of Jesus *in* Paul. This was by the Holy Spirit entering into him and giving him Christ’s mind, Christ’s heart, Christ’s compassions, so that Paul became a revelation of Christ to other men. Paul was from that hour “possessed,” but it was by the Spirit of Christ. His personality became a new centre of spiritual force and power. ¹

1. The Pulpit Commentary, Volume XX, p. 55.

FIRST STUDY

PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTLESHIP
(Galatians 1:1-24)

Paul begins this epistle to the Galatians by defending his apostleship.

1. What does he say in Galatians 1:1 in his defense? _____

The source of Paul’s apostleship is not of, or from men, neither is man the channel through which it is expressed,...*but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead.*

2. From Galatians 1:4: *Jesus gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us _____, according to the will of God and our Father.*

There were false teachers coming in among the new converts of the Galatian Churches, and imposing circumcision, and the yoke of the law (Mosaic) as requirements for Salvation. Going back to the law, and substituting it for the Gospel, is perverting the Gospel. Paul reminds them there cannot be two Gospels (Galatians 1:6,7).

These false teachers wanted the Galatian believers to reject Paul’s teachings.

Paul wanted to reaffirm clearly that we receive the Holy Spirit and spiritual life (Salvation) by

grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and not by attachment to Old Testament law.

Paul goes on to say that if he and his fellow workers preach any other Gospel unto them than which they have already preached unto them, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8).

3. From what other source did Paul refer in that same verse? _____

Let him be accursed. Galatians 1: 8,9. Let him be *anathema*, a thing doomed to destruction

4. What does Paul say he would not be if he tried to please men (Galatians 1:10)? _____

5. What does Paul certify to the brethren in Galatians 1:11? _____

Paul wanted to certify that the Gospel he preached was not of or after man of human invention, but it came to him through a direct revelation encounter with Christ (Galatians 1:11,12). "I was one of the most religious Jews of my own age in the whole country, and tried as hard as I possibly could to follow all the old traditional rules of my religion (Judaism) with extreme," says Paul, "*I persecuted the Church of God and wasted it. I did my best to destroy it* (Galatians 1:13,14). But when it pleased God Who set me apart before I was born (from my mother's womb), *and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son to*

me, that I might preach Him among the heathen (the non-Jewish world), I didn't immediately communicate *with flesh and blood* (Galatians 1:15,16). I didn't even *go up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me:* but went to Arabia, and back again to Damascus (Galatians 1:17)."

6. (a) How long was it before Paul made any contact even with Peter? (Galatians 1:18) _____

(b) How long did Paul stay with Peter? (same verse) _____

7. (a) At that time, would the Churches of Judea know Paul if they saw him face-to-face? (Galatians 1:22) _____

(b) From Galatians 1:23, What was the only thing these Churches had heard about Paul? _____

(c) What was their reaction to what they had heard? (Galatians 1:24) _____

It was Jesus Himself who undertook Paul's conversion. There was no intermediate instrument. On the way to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him in a dazzling radiance, and compelled the persecutor to recognize, not only his existence, but his sovereign authority. Henceforth he could have no doubt regarding the reign of Jesus Christ. This was the revelation of Jesus to him----the historic interview which made Paul's