

Paul's My Story

I. Paul received his gospel message and his commission to ministry directly from Jesus (1:11-12)

- A. Paul's gospel did not originate with any human source (11)
- B. Paul did not receive the gospel from religious tradition (12a)
- C. Paul did not receive the gospel by instruction (12b)
- D. Paul received the gospel directly through a revelation of Jesus (12c)

POINT: Paul's call and commission, his gospel message and his ministry, were from Jesus, not any human source

II. Paul received his gospel message and his commission to ministry at his conversion. (1:13-17)

- A. Paul did not receive the gospel from men before his conversion (Gal. 1:13-14)
 - 1. Paul's personal history is proof that he did not receive the gospel from men. His only relationship with the church was that of persecutor. (13-4)
 - 2. Prior to his conversion, his whole life was hostile to the church. Paul's conversion is evidence of direct revelation from Christ Himself and drives home the point that his apostleship rests upon God's own intervention.
- B. Paul did not receive the gospel from men at his conversion. (Gal. 1:15-16a)
 - 1. God set Paul apart from birth and prepared him for preaching the gospel.
 - 2. Paul's apostleship is independent of, not derived from, nor under the authority of, but equal to the rest of the Apostles.
 - 3. **Understand *in me* as *in my life*.**

POINT: Both Paul's conversion and Paul's commission to be the Apostle to the Gentiles owed nothing to man, but only God. How else could such a transformation take place –from persecutor to proclaimer?

- C. Paul did not receive the gospel from men after his conversion. (Gal. 1: 16b-20)
 - 1. In Acts, immediately upon Paul's baptism (three days after his conversion) he was proclaiming Jesus in Damascus as the Son of God, and Paul's only commission was the one Jesus Himself gave. (Acts 9:20).
 - 2. Paul's gospel message was not derived from others, from Christian leaders (apostles) in Jerusalem, as his opponents claimed.
 - 3. Paul went away to Arabia for a time of solitary communion with God.
 - 4. Paul shows that there was no opportunity for him to have received either his message or his apostolic calling from any church leaders.

POINT: None of the Apostles were in touch with Paul before, during or after his conversion to impart the gospel to him prior to his trip to Jerusalem.

III. Paul did not receive the gospel message or his ministry to Gentiles from men during his visit to Jerusalem. (1:18-20)

- A. At first, the Church in Jerusalem, Apostles included, would not meet with Paul. (Acts 9:26-28).

- B. Paul went to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and to inquire of him.
 - 1. Historeo means to visit with the purpose of obtaining information.
 - 2. The word does not mean to visit with the purpose of obtaining authority, authorization, commission, or assignment.

- B. Paul stayed 15 days, then left Jerusalem because of a plot to kill him. (Acts 9:29; Acts 22:17-21)
- C. Paul did not go visit Peter to get a call or a commission, or a gospel to preach; he had already gotten all that directly from Jesus three years ago and had been actively working in ministry before meeting any apostles.

IV. The Apostles and the churches of Judea praised God for Paul's call and commission (1:21-24)

- A. Paul went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia and served at the Holy Spirit's prompting, not the Apostles' commissioning. (Acts 22:17-21)
- B. The Judean Christians praised God for Paul and his work among the Gentiles. (1:23-24)
- C. This point was a major blow to the false teachers. That the Jewish believers praised God for Paul, and his God-given gospel message and ministry proves that it agreed with the Apostles' gospel and that they welcomed Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.
- D. The Jewish believers in Judea would not have been happy with Paul and praising God if he had preached a gospel different from the gospel the other apostles had believed and proclaimed. So the false teachers from Judea were effectively countered by Paul's point here.

V. The significance of your story.

- A. Paul's story of what God did in his life shows what the gospel of grace is and how it works.
- B. God revealed Christ to Paul so that He could reveal Christ through Paul.
 - 1. Your relationship with Jesus is not for you period. Your relationship with Jesus is for more than you, your salvation, your security, your comfort, your joy, etc.
 - 2. Your relationship with Jesus is for you comma, so that you can show Jesus to others through who you are, what you say and what you do.
- C. Paul's growth as a Christian included solitary time with God (in Arabia) in reflection, contemplation, preparation and study of the Bible.
- D. Like Paul, we must speak our story. Speak about what the gospel means to you, what God has done and is doing in your life, what God has been teaching you lately. Be it pleasant or difficult, tell your *My Story*.

Message

God revealed Jesus to you so that He could reveal Jesus through you.

Some things to think about and act upon:

- In what ways can you now see how God worked in your life before your conversion, to equip you to serve Him after it?
- How could you live your life so that people would respect and praise God more because of you?