

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

Sunday, October 8, 2017 Pastor Tom Gang

The Galatian churches were under heavy attack from false brethren preaching and teaching a _____ gospel. According to the Apostle Paul's defensive posture there must have been false accusations being purported about him. With his differing ministry and distant relationship to the Jerusalem apostles, the troublemakers were asserting his message was _____ from God. (Corrupt human nature has not changed much—Attack the message while seeking to discredit the messenger). Therefore, the best way for Paul to _____ his position was to first explain his personal testimony, reminding the believers what God had done both in and through him. Although they had already heard of his past life, it was obvious they did not consider its relevance to their current situation. As we will see in the following texts, Paul clearly explains himself, giving _____ that his apostleship and message were indeed blessed of God.

DEFENDING THE GOSPEL WITH PAUL'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY - PART ONE - GALATIANS 1:10-24

1. Paul explains how he received the _____ - Galatians 1:10-12
 - a. The true gospel message from Christ does _____ please men - verse 10; James 4:4
 - b. The true gospel message came by the _____ of Jesus Christ - verses 11-12

2. Paul reminds them of his _____ life in the Jews' religion - Galatians 1:13-14
 - a. Beyond measure he persecuted the church and wasted it - verse 13
 - Paul threatened Christians - Acts 9:1a
 - Paul _____ Christians - Acts 9:1b; 26:10
 - Paul tortured Christians - Acts 26:11a
 - Paul made Christians curse God - Acts 26:11b
 - Paul was persecuting Jesus Christ himself - Acts 9:1-4
 - b. He excelled above his peers in his _____ religious life - verse 14
 - Orthodox Judaism is a religion
 - Religion is the performance of pious acts to earn favor with God and men...*
 - Nowhere in the Bible does religion have anything to do with getting saved*
 - Paul was an Hebrew of Hebrews - Phil. 2:4-7
 - Paul was not a lukewarm religionist - he was more exceedingly zealous than most
 - Paul was not a compromiser - if tradition said, "do this or that it," he did it exactly

3. Paul details relevant events _____ getting saved – Galatians 1:15-24
- a. His preparation and calling – verses 15-16a
- God prepared and called him
 - God called him by grace
 - God called him to reveal Jesus Christ in him
 - God called him to reach others
- b. His supernatural schooling – verses 16b-17
- He did not get schooled by any man or men – verse 16b
 - He did not go up to Jerusalem to be taught by the apostles – verse 17a
 - He went to _____ to get his training directly from Jesus Christ – verse 17b
- Mt. Sinai is in Arabia – Galatians 4:25*
Moses went to Arabia (to Mt. Sinai to be alone with God)
Elijah went to Arabia (to Mt. Sinai to be alone with God)
Jesus went to Arabia (to Mt. Sinai to be alone with God the Father)
- c. His connection to Jerusalem – verses 18-20
- He went there to see Peter
 - He also saw James the Lord's earthly _____
 - Paul is very serious and is _____ lying about these things
- d. His testimony in the churches – verses 21-24
- He travelled far and wide through Syria, Cilicia and back through Judea – verse 21-22
 - Although they had never met him they knew about his past – verse 23a
 - They also knew that he had been gloriously saved and was now a preacher of the very gospel he once sought to destroy – verse 23b
 - His personal testimony was so powerful that it caused all the churches to _____ God – verse 24