

(1) Paul, an apostle --- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead --- and all the brothers who are with me. To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

(6) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a “different gospel” --- not that there IS another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

(10) For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

(11) For I would have you know, brothers, that the Gospel that was preached to me is not man’s gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

(15) But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone, nor did I go to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

(18) Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remain with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

(22) And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God because of me.

(2:1) Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

Think on these things:

- 1) Look up 1 Corinthians 15:1-9. In a few brief words, what is THE Gospel?

Jesus died for mankind’s sin according to the prophecies of scripture. He was buried, and then resurrected on Day 3.

- 2) What did Jesus give Himself for, and why did He do this (v.4)?

He gave Himself to die for the sins of mankind so He could deliver us from this present evil age and fulfill God the Father’s Will.

- 3) Commentators believe the “different” gospel being shared with the Galatians was that these new Gentile believers must first be circumcised to embrace Mosaic laws like Jews before they could properly become Christians. Can you identify two religions that “distorted” the Gospel, claiming they were given instructions by God’s angels?

The two large religions today who base their faith on “new”, LATER revelations from God’s angels are The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), from the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith), and Islam (from the archangel Gabriel to Mohammed). Both added to/changed the Gospel of Jesus as recorded in the Christian Bible.

- 4) What does Paul say is the outcome of trying to please men or trying to please God (v.10)?

If we focus on pleasing men, we don’t gain approval as servants of Christ.

- 5) Skim over Acts 9:1-22. Let’s put together Paul’s story:

Acts 22:3 – Born where? Raised where? **Born in Tarsus, but raised in Jerusalem**

Philippians 3:4-7 and Acts 18:3– Occupation? **He was trained as a Pharisee under Gamaliel, and also made a living as a tentmaker.**

v.13, Acts 22:4-5 – Jewish zealotry? **Paul persecuted the Christian “Way” in its early days, even hauling believers back from other cities to Jerusalem to be imprisoned.**

V.14 – Jewish recognition? **Advancing in Judaism faster than any of his peers.**

Acts 22:6-9 – Conversion? **As Saul, he was stopped en route to Damascus by a bright light from heaven which blinded him, and from which he was spoken to by Jesus**

V. 15 – When chosen by God? **Saul (Paul) was chosen before birth.**

V.16 – Why was Jesus revealed to him? **In order that he might preach to the Gentiles.**

Acts 9:23-26 – Why leave Damascus? **He fled to avoid being murdered by the Jews.**

Vs. 17-18 – Years in Arabia, then back in Damascus? **3 years**

Vs. 18-19 – How long in Jerusalem? Who did he see? **15 days, seeing Peter & James.**

2:1 – How long until he returned to Jerusalem? **14 years.**

Estimate how many years between Paul’s conversion and Paul’s 1st missionary journey? **17 years (making Paul somewhere between 35-45 years old, based on estimating ‘young man’ in Acts 7:58)**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: