

Paul was astonished that the Galatians moved away so quickly from the gospel to “another gospel.”

The Judaizers followed people such as Paul, trying to destroy churches by telling Christians that Paul was lying to them by teaching a gospel of faith.

Paul had some pretty harsh words for those Judaizers

In fact, twice, once in verse 8 and once in verse 9 he called them “**accursed.**”

“**accursed**” - **destined for destruction.**”

Paul used the word in Romans 9:3 when he said **he was willing to be accursed for his countrymen, the Israelites.**

The Judaizers also accused Paul of dissuading the Galatians from the OT laws

- **and persuading them toward the NT grace and faith.**

Gal 1:11-14

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.

Paul had a light bulb moment when He realized the truth of Jesus

So Paul says to the Galatians,

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.

Paul must have been very remorseful in a sense as he recalled his past of trying to destroy the church.

Paul was saying that nothing on this earth is of any value compared to the eternal heavenly things.

This life we’re in now is a bunch of photos that will soon be gone.

- They’re a bunch of snap shots of our life.

Gal 1:15

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, I love this verse: **But...God!**

This verb (**Separated**) is only used 3 times in the NT.

Another time was in Rom 1:1 when Paul said:

- he was separated to the gospel of God

the other time is in Acts 13:2.

Paul and Barnabas were separated to the work of the Lord.

Are you separated unto the Lord?

Do you think Paul would have ever surrendered to Christ

- had Jesus not spoken to him on the Damascus road?

King David understood that he was chosen to be king by the grace of God and not because of anything he had done. (1 Chron 28:4-5)

Paul said earlier in verse 6, I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel.

God chose them and they were walking away!

Charles Spurgeon once said, "it's a good thing He chose me before I was born because He probably would have never picked me after I was born."

Are you chosen?

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Isa 53:6

6 We-every one of us-have strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's paths to follow our own. Yet God laid on him the guilt and sins of every one of us!

TLB

If you've answered the call, then yes!

Will you RSVP!

Why did God call us by His grace? Paul says:

16 to reveal His Son in me (us),

Have you made changes in your life? Are you more Christ-like? Do people see those changes in your life?

Paul said that God called him thru His grace to reveal His son in him: Why? 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; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

This timeline of events seems straightforward.

Acts chapter 9

- there in acts, Luke never mentioned this three-year time period
- Paul may have spent 3 years in Arabia going over the OT and listening to the Holy Spirit.
- We each need an Arabia, get away daily and spend time with the Lord.

Moses needed 40 years in the desert.

David spent his time with the Lord

- as he was on the hillside of Judea tending sheep.

When Elijah was running for his life, he ended up in a cave at Mt Horeb 1st Kings 19, the Lord said to him, what are you doing here Elijah?

Elijah was there seeking the Lord. So he was told, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord."

1 Kings 19:11-13

11 And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Elijah sought the Lord.

After spending 3 years in Arabia and hearing from the Lord, Paul went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

He's back in his old stomping grounds.

How difficult might it be to go back to your past?

- People know your past ways,
- The Jews certainly knew of Paul's past

When the Lord changes you, He doesn't do it half-hearted. He does it completely.

Mark 5 - Demon possessed man.

When Jesus asked the name of the demon he said, **“My name is Legion; for we are many.”**

After Jesus delivered the man from the demons and sent them into a herd of swine, the man wanted to follow Jesus.

- But Jesus didn't permit him,
- Instead, He told him to go and tell his friends
- what the Lord did for him
- and how He had compassion on him.

Can anyone vouch for you today and say, “Yes, he/she loves Jesus!” “Yes, I see the fruit in his/her life!”

Gal 1:19-20

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. **20** (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

Now to the skeptics, the Judaizers and the fallen,

- this should be enough to convince them
- that Paul was who he said he was.

First, he spent some time with Peter, the pillar of the church.

If Paul wasn't who he claimed he was, Peter certainly would have said so.

Secondly, he says here in verse 19 that **he saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.** Again, If Paul were not who he claimed to be, James would have certainly said so.

James also approved of Paul going to the Gentiles according to Gal 2:9.

Gal 1:21-24

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

This verse is a brief chronology of Paul's life after conversion. He first went to the desert for 3 years to receive training from the Lord.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. **23** But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." **24** And they glorified God in me.

Paul went from persecutor to Preacher.

His motive WAS to prove to the Judaizers

- the message I preach is the same message
- that saved and changed me.

(Notice I didn't say changed and saved. God first saves you then He changes you!)

Paul said in **verse 9**, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Some of our biggest challenges as Christians are those who are religious.

Some of the biggest collusions Jesus had,

- was with the religious leaders
- because of their traditions.

In Mark 7 there was a confrontation over the washing of hands. The Religious leaders traveled from Jerusalem to Gennesaret, roughly 90 miles because people were not washing their hands when they ate bread!

This had nothing to do with hygiene.

- It was a ceremonial cleansing to strip away defilement.
- The Jews believed the Gentiles were defiled
- therefore they avoided contact with Gentiles.

Mark 7:1-4

1 Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. **2** Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. **3** For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. (they'd point their arms upward and someone would pour water on their finger tips which would run down to their elbows then they'd reverse direction pointing their fingers downward and have water poured on their elbows that ran down to their finger tips since the water was now considered defiled because it touched their hands) **4** When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

The scribes and Pharisees had many traditions, some glorified God some didn't. Many valued the outward more than the inward.

When we worship God He doesn't look at your hands are dirty. He looks at your heart to see if you're sincere!

Notice the accusation in verse 5.

Mark 7:5

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

So they were eating bread with unwashed hands and didn't walk according to the traditions of the elders.

Their emphasis was on the outward.

Mark 7:6-13

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men – the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. (it was more important for them to keep their man made traditions than it was to hold to the scriptures) 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother' (5th commandment); and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban" – ' (that is, a gift to God),

The Jews made up a tradition allowing them to escape the responsibility of honoring their father and mother.

They practiced what Jesus calls in verse 11, "Corban."

In the OT "Corban" was a gift or an offering dedicated to God, Leviticus 2.

In the NT according to the WS NT Dictionary,

- this gift was used to excuse a person
- from doing his or her duty toward their parents.

This also made a statement of something

- that was dedicated to God.

12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

Matt 15:7-9

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Gal 2:1-5

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. 2 And I went up by revelation, (the unveiling: Jesus didn't send a messenger to Paul but spoke to him directly) and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, (Paul is like, I didn't pull any punches, I preached the same gospel to them as the Gentiles) but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

What has Paul been doing over the last 14 years?

Following his conversion,

- he spent approximately three years in the Arabian desert,
- where the Lord began to teach him.

When he left the desert,

- he spent fifteen days in Jerusalem with Peter.

He then made his way to Syria, Cilicia, and finally back to his hometown of Tarsus—where he remained for the next eleven years.

During those eleven years,

- outside of what was transpiring in the Book of Acts,
- Paul most likely labored making tents and studying—
- until people started getting saved in Antioch.

Many of the newly believers were Jew by nationality

- but Grecian in culture and custom.

When the church leaders in Jerusalem heard of the outpouring of the Spirit in Antioch,

- they sent Barnabas to see what was happening.

After surveying the situation,

- Barnabas contacted his old friend Paul and brought him back to Antioch,
- back into ministry (Acts 11:19-26).

3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

False brethren were brought into the meeting to spy out the liberties of the Christians.

Why? Because they were still searching for ways to bring the believers into bondage.

Paul's message was about to be tested in these verses

- and that was that God accepts anyone who believes
- regardless of their background, nationality, or anything else

The church in Jerusalem was now in a position to practice what Paul preached.

Titus was an uncircumcised Gentile

- and surely the gospel applied to him
- without requiring his circumcision.

This showed to the Judaizers that the Jerusalem church

- accepted Paul's policy.

5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul's message was freedom in Christ.

- That's the theme of Galatians.

What are some of our liberties in Christ?

- Sins are forgiven (1 Jn 1:9)
- We are released from the bondage of sin (Titus 2:14)
- We are saved from the wrath of God (1 Thess 1:10; 5,9; Rev 3:10)
- We are considered a son of God (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6)
- God's Holy Spirit will dwell within us (Jn 8:36, Rom 6:18, 1 Pet 2:16)
- We are no longer under the dominion of the law (Rom 7:6, 2 Cor 3:1-6)

Freedom is the theme of this book!

- We are free in Christ,
- where the Spirit of the Lord is
- there is liberty.

But we are not to abuse our freedom:

Paul says in chapter 5, don't use your liberty as an opportunity for the flesh (sin), but thru love serve one another.

Don't have the attitude, "Oh, I'm covered in Christ,

- I can do whatever I want
- because I'm covered by His grace."

That's a teaching called antinomianism:

It teaches that we don't have to be accountable to any moral law. So, the thought is that we simply have to believe, then we can do as we please.

If you're saved, your freedom to sin ends. We were once slaves to sin but now we are slaves unto righteousness.

The freedom of the gospel gives you the freedom to say "NO" to a lifestyle of sin.