

GALATIANS
Paul's Defense
Galatians 1:11-24
Week 2 October 4, 2026
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There are many religious ideas out there that all claim to be right.
Who has it right?

Paul is being challenged by Jews who are convinced that salvation is attained by keeping the Law.

Paul Called by God

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12 ESV

The Jews are asking what makes the gospel Paul is preaching the right gospel.

Paul is declaring direct revelation from God.

Paul's experience was not unlike the apostles who received the gospel directly from Jesus.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5 ESV

PAUL SET APART

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. 14 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, 16 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; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Galatians 1:13-17 ESV

Paul persecuted the followers of Jesus. He saw the teachings of Jesus as an attack on Judaism.

Paul is a Jew by birth.
Chosen to be a Pharisee.
Exceedingly zealous.
Held a rigid adherence to the Law.

God did three things to reach Paul.

1. God set Paul apart at birth. He wanted him well trained.
2. God called Paul by His grace on the road to Damascus.
3. God revealed Jesus to Paul.

Paul was chosen by God to be the apostle to the gentiles.

PAUL BEGINS TO MINISTER

Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. 20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. 21 Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. 22 I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 And they praised God because of me. Galatians 1:18-24 ESV

Paul appears to be responding to questions most likely raised by the Jews.

Rest assured Paul is telling the truth.

When Paul left Jerusalem he went back to Damascus and preached Syria and Cilicia for 14 years.

This is the transition from the Jewish scriptures and the religion of Judaism to the Gospel story found in the New Testament written and delivered to every nation on earth.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 ESV

Paul is one of the prophets called by God to preach that gospel. And none of his Jewish brothers will stop him.