

# GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL



WEEK 2 | GALATIANS 1:12-24

## WEEK 2 — GALATIANS 1:11-24

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup>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; <sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) <sup>21</sup>Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup>And they glorified God because of me.

<sup>2</sup> See "For" at the beginning of verse 13.

## QUESTIONS

1. What was the last thing that Paul said in v. 10? How is v. 10 relevant to what he says in v. 11? The gospel Paul preached is not man's (v. 11); how is that an argument for his desire to please and serve Christ only (v. 10)?
2. Verse 12—like v. 11—begins with "For," which means Paul is giving a *reason*. How is v. 12 a logical explanation for what Paul says in verse 11? To put it another way, how does verse 12 prove that the gospel is not a man-made message?
3. The remainder of the passage (v. 13-24) is a further explanation<sup>2</sup> for how the gospel is not man's gospel, but God's. In the explanation, Paul provides all of the stages leading up to him becoming an inspired spokesman for Jesus. Read through the passage carefully and see if you can put the stages in *chronological* order. Put a 1, 2, 3... next to them to match chronology.

Number	Event/stage
	" <sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> 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."
	"But when he who had set me apart before I was born..."
	"and who called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup> 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; <sup>17</sup> 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."
	" <sup>18</sup> Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup> (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)"
	" <sup>21</sup> Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup> And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup> They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup> And they glorified God because of me."

4. How would you summarize Paul's argument in v. 13-24 which supports his point in v. 11-12 that the gospel is not man's gospel, but God's?

5. Looking back at the order of stages, what is the very first thing to happen *chronologically*? What does it say about character of God when you put that event next to Paul's "former life" (v. 13-14)?

6. Look up 1 Timothy 1:15-17. What does Paul say was the purpose for God saving *specifically* Paul? How does this serve as an encouragement to those who have strayed very far from God?

7. How does Paul describe God's heart when he revealed his Son to Paul? (v. 16) Why might God find "*pleasure*" in saving someone who "persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it"?

8. If God was "*pleased*" to reveal his Son to Paul who killed and persecuted Christians, how much more so might God be pleased to reveal him to you or someone else you love? Who might you stop right now and pray for God to reveal his Son to?

9. How much time elapsed between the moment God revealed his Son (v. 16) and the moment people started hearing about Paul and glorifying God (v. 23-24)? What might this imply about being patient for God to use us in powerful ways? How does Paul even use this as a qualification for leadership? (1 Timothy 3:6)

