

## Unit #2- Galatians 1:1-16

Memory Verse: Galatians 1:15-16

Paul begins the letter to the Galatians defending his apostleship (1:1, 11-12, and 15-16). He was aware of the attacks on his claim as an apostle from the Judaizers who challenged his authority to denounce them (See Intro-Context). His birth as an apostle was of supernatural origin because God's resurrection power brought it about (1:1-2). If you are a son of God your origin is supernatural as well. I love how he introduces himself in the letter with all the brothers with me!

1. In your own words describe who the Judaizers were and what they were teaching the Galatian Gentile converts?
2. How did Paul become an apostle? By what authority did he challenge the Judaizers?
3. What do these verses reveal about the rock solid foundation of Paul's calling?
4. By what authority can we challenge pastors/teachers other leaders in the church?

### Defending Attacks on the Gospel (1:6-10)

This section references the attack on the gospel from the Judaizers in terms of its serious consequences in judgment by God. It is described in some detail in chapter 2 and refuted through scripture throughout the letter. They were "adding" religious works to the gospel of grace. For them the requirements of circumcision were a must if Gentiles would be received into fellowship with them and personally know the blessing of God. We all have a strong desire to be accepted by others, especially in the church. Their can be a very high cost to this social acceptance when we sacrifice our freedom in Christ for it. Even worse we may forfeit the very truth of the gospel for a works righteousness that leaves us dead in our sins.

5. What is the true gospel that Paul refers to here? Use some of his teaching from Galatians or another letter to support.
6. Why was the Judaizers' requirement a perversion of the gospel?
7. In what ways are churches today "adding" religious works as a requirement of salvation?

## Cherishing the Gospel

Memory Verse: Gal. 1:15-16

“But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.”

This verse has 5 important elements for us to understand and rejoice in because of their application to us. These verses had a unique meaning in Paul’s life for sure but each one has an importance to us as well. Each of these elements has wider biblical support beyond Galatians. Reflect upon each one, giving time for meditating and rejoicing in God’s grace to you. Write out some of your thoughts on each one.

Here begins the cherishing dimension of this great letter. Maybe you have been a church attendee for some time but you have not experienced real grace and you have doubts about these truths. All I can say for now is I am glad you are with us for the journey my friend!

1. When God set me apart from my mother’s womb...( Psalm 139:13-16)
2. Called me by his grace...(Romans 8:30, Ephesians 1:5, 11)
3. Was pleased to reveal his Son in me...(Gal. 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. So that I might preach him among the Gentiles... (Great Commission-Matt. 28:18-20)
5. My immediate response was not to consult any man...(Gal. 1:1, 2:6)