

Galatians 1.11-2.10

A Shocking Turn

610 at the Hira cave on Mount Nur in Mecca **Night of Destiny, Night of Power**
angel Gabriel RECITED message to Prophet Muhammad

September 21, 1823. Angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith > golden plates,
which Latter Day Saints believe were the source material for the Book of Mormon
Took away GOLD PLATES and gave him pair of TOTAL BODY UNDERWEAR

LONG List of People – MANY Clinically INSANE – “God spoke to ME!”

ADD Saul of Tarsus to the LIST > Dogmatic Assertion – Heard Directly from God

HOW can we SORT Thru LONG LIST of CLAIMS to have HEARD from God??

UNIQUE Aspect of Paul’s Claim > What Makes Christian Faith RISE or FALL

RESURRECTION of Jesus – VERIFIABLE Fact of HISTORY

20 yrs AFTER Event – Paul wrote 1 Corinthians: 500 SAW Risen X – Many Alive!

Paul DARES his Readers to ASK any of those EYEWITNESSES to be SURE

Paul’s Enemies Rejected him because he was NON-Conformist

Did NOT Stand in TRADITION of Original Apostles from Jerusalem

GOSPEL was KNOCK-OFF > NOT from AUTHORIZED DEALERSHIP

Paul AGREED that he was DIFFERENT > Claimed it was God’s Plan for him:

NOT preaching Second-Hand Gospel, NOT RE-FRIED Jewish Theology

1.11,12 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by 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.

Jesus ONE who Revealed Message AND ONE who is Revealed by Message
 BOTH are TRUE – Jesus is THE REVEALER and THE REVELATION of God
 Jesus Christ took Paul into HIS OWN School as His PRIVATE STUDENT
 THEME: Trustworthiness of Paul’s Message / True Spokesman of Jesus?

1. Fighter – Combating the Gospel

1.13,14 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.

Some people GET RELIGION when LIFE HITS THEM Hard – NEED GOD!
 Everything was GOING Paul’s Way – Not EMPTY, SEARCHING, DESPERATE
 Had a STRONG OPINION of JESUS > Formed thru KNOWING FOLLOWERS
 Thought PREACHERS of the WAY were LIARS > Jesus HOAX

Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. Acts 9.1
 BREATHING OUT = Angry Animal > EVEN his BREATH is DANGEROUS

I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man 1 Timothy 1.13

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 1 Corinthians 15.9

STILL Breathing Out Threats > BEGAN in Chapter 7 – STEPHEN’S Death

...they all rushed at him, (Stephen) dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul...Saul was there, giving approval to his death. Acts 7.58,8.1

Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8.3

Verb describes WILD ANIMAL MANGLING its VICTIMS

NOT Satisfied to DAMAGE Church – Paul wanted to DESTROY the Church

WHAT CAUSED his SHOCKING TURN from MURDERER to MISSIONARY?
 JEWS? – Highly Doubtful – Saul of Tarsus their CHAMPION Christian-Killer!

Christians? – Rare any would ‘grab a coffee’ with Stoner-of-Stephen-Saul

No one WITNESSED to, or DISCIPLINED, or CATECHISED Paul

Now a man in that mental and emotional state is in no mood to change his mind, or even to have it changed for him by men. No conditioned reflex or other psychological device could convert a man in that state. Only God reach him – and God did!
 John Stott

Paul was NOT Looking for TRUTH, MEANING, PURPOSE, RELIGION

He HAD a Religion – Convinced it was TRUE – KILLED People to Prove it!

NOT like Joseph Smith asked “God, show me the RIGHT RELIGION!”

How did this BIGOT & FANATIC ever GET HIS FEET on the GOSPEL ROAD?

2. Found – Caught by the Gospel

a. God did it - Fighter: HE did it – ALL by HIMSELF

1.13,14 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.

Major SHIFT in Focus – When he was Found – GOD Did It

1.15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1.5

b. God did it by Grace 1.15 and who called me by his grace

NOT Called because of HOW USEFUL he would be – Not God NEEDED him

Someone once said, “What would God have DONE WITHOUT Paul?”

The Universe would NOT Miss One Good Thing – Thanks very much!

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy
Titus 3.5

Even as GOD CHOSE JACOB instead of his Elder Brother ESAU
God PREDESTINED Paul for MERCY and for MINISTRY before Birth
Paul neither DESERVED Mercy NOR ASKED for it - SURPRISED by Grace
c. God did it through Christ 1.16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me
Saul of Tarsus HATED Jesus of Nazareth and HIS Followers >
Christ CRUCIFIED is OXYMORON – Ridiculous, Impossible Idea to Saul
Surprise, Surprise – Crucified, but RISEN, Jesus the Christ revealed to Saul
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4.6

d. God did it for the Sake of Others WHOM Much GIVEN, Much REQUIRED
1.16 in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles
Evidence of God’s Work – How could PREJUDICED Rabbi care for Gentiles?
The gospel is not man’s good news about God; it is God’s good news for man.
Philip Ryken

e. God did it for His Glory 1.24 And they glorified God because of me.
Saul of Tarsus POTENTIAL for Much HUMAN Glory and Praise from Man
IMAGINE being the Rising Star who SUCCEEDED the Famous GAMALIEL
Paul the Apostle preferred to GLORY in the CROSS of His dear SAVIOR
...the religions that human beings invent always end up glorifying human beings.
Philip Ryken

3. Follower – Commissioned for the Gospel

Heard Paul's Story BEFORE Meeting the Risen Jesus & Changed

What were Paul's contacts with other believers after Meeting Jesus?

Did he BORROW the message of the OTHER Apostles Then?

Paul gives 3 Proofs / Evidences that His Gospel NOT Boot-Legged from Jerusalem

a. First to Arabia 1.16-17 I did not immediately consult with anyone; 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.

Arabia? Some speculate he went down to Mt. SINAI to receive New Covenant

But even DAMASCUS – at that time – IN the Kingdom of Arabia

LUKE'S Narrative of Paul's Conversion in Acts – Right AFTER being Saved...

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues... Acts 9.19,20

Paul DESTINED for DIFFICULTY > Goes to BOOT CAMP before the BATTLES

Some PLAN to reach RURAL Areas – Never Leave Big, Comfortable, Cities

Never got HOOKED on COFFEE & CHOCOLATES in COZY Jerusalem

3 years Passed BEFORE Paul's First to the Apostles of Jerusalem

Just like 12 Apostles spent 3 years with Jesus on Earth

Final, Unlikely, Apostle spent 3 years with Jesus who Reigns from Heaven

After 3 years LEAVES Damascus at Night – Lowered in Basket over City WALL

b. Later, Briefly to Jerusalem

1.18,19 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.
Acts 9.26-28

When he FINALLY ARRIVES at HEADQUARTERS – Not GREAT Success
ONLY Barnabas was NOT AFRAID that Saul was SUICIDE BOMBER in House
With or Without WELCOME or APPROVAL – Man on Mission with Message

Galatians 1.18 – AFTER 3 Years – Saw 2 Leaders – for JUST 15 Days
Meetings SQUEEZED between BUSY SCHEDULE of Preaching Christ
CLEAR, OBVIOUS, Paul did NOT get his MESSAGE or MANDATE from Them
1.20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) – SAD Picture
Paul IMAGINES their ACCUSING, DOUBTING Response to his REASONING

c. Off to Syria and Beyond CAREFULLY Follows Luke’s NARRATIVE Acts 9:

And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.
Acts 9.29,30

Paul’s BOLD Preaching got him into DANGEROUS TROUBLE

We NEED you to KEEP LIVING and KEEP PREACHING for MORE Years

Sometimes RIGHT to RETREAT in BATTLE – To WIN the PROLONGED WAR

1.21-23 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 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.”

They did not glorify Paul, but God in Paul, recognizing that Paul was a signal trophy of God’s grace.
John Stott

Paul says he Went to FAR NORTH way BEYOND Apostles & Ideas of Jerusalem
 CLEAR, COMPELLING Proof > NOT Apostle of Men > Spoke for Jesus Christ
 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God
 Romans 1.1

Christ could not proclaim the gospel fully when he was on the earth. He had come into this world to redeem man by his death and resurrection, and the recounting of that great event was to constitute the gospel by which He was to be presented as the Saviour of men. The meaning of the great event could not be set forth in all its fullness until the event had taken place. Much, therefore, was left to the teaching of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles. A gospel that neglects the Epistles of Paul and holds only to the teaching of our Lord on earth is not really loyal to Christ; nay it is profoundly disloyal to Him, and it impoverishes woefully and sinfully our knowledge of His teaching and His person and His work. J. Gresham Machen

4. Family – Colleagues in the Gospel

SHIFT in Argument – OK, Gospel not from Jerusalem, then DIFFERENT Gospel
 You have PETER’S Gospel AND PAUL’S – Somebody MUST be WRONG

Ch 1 – Gospel NOT from Man / Ch 2 – SAME Gospel Revealed to OTHER Men

Explains – SECOND Visit to Jerusalem – 14 yrs AFTER Meeting Lord Jesus

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 11.27-30

a. Paul’s Team: Gentile Member

2.1,3 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me...But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

Barnabas – Introduced Paul in both Jerusalem and Antioch – Vital Ministry

One of Keys to Gospel Success – Putting the Right People on Mission Team

Titus – Greek, Uncircumcised, Converted thru Paul’s Preaching – Now Leader

DARING Step to take GENTILE into Headquarters of Jewish Christianity

NOT Trying to be PROVOCATIVE but SHOW THE Power of the Gospel

2.4,5 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

CRITICS of TITUS & PAUL “How DARE you Bring that Gentile HERE!”

They were GATE-CRASHERS – WORMED into the Meeting as SPIES

Paul was the first corruptor of the doctrines of Jesus. Thomas Jefferson

Yes, TITUS - Uncircumcised Gentile MORE Important: Converted Christian

About 1800 young Hawaiian swam to Merchant Ship in Kealakekua Bay

Sailed China – Asia – India – Africa – across Atlantic to New England, USA

Timothy Dwight – President of Yale – found him Crying on College steps

Took him Home for Dinner – Led him to Christ > Instant Phenomenon

Most White New Englanders NEVER Seen DARK Skinned Man > Christian!

Henry Opukahia became Preacher / Evangelist / Translated Scriptures Hawaiian

Planning to lead M Team to Islands – DIED before Able at AGE 27

New England MOURNED – We will GO to Henry’s People > 1820!

SURE Titus made Quite a STIR in the Church in JERUSALEM!

“O Lord, grant that these brethren may never want to be like other people.”

Francis Asbury, 1st Bishop of the Methodist Church in USA
Prayed in Ordination service for Deacons

b. Paul’s Teaching: Message for Gentiles

1) Caring for the Poor 2.2 I went up because of a revelation

PRIMARY Reason for TRIP > REVEALATION of God > Prophet AGABUS?

Carrying LOVE OFFERING for Poor & Hungry / Will DO this AGAIN!

2.10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

End of 3rd M Journey: Paul RISKS Life to Bring OFFERING for Poor in Jerusalem

POPULAR Today to Speak about JUSTICE & Poverty – THAT is GOOD!

Few of Us would GIVE OUR LIVES for the POOR – Paul NEARLY DID

2) Not Caring for Platitudes

2.6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential

2.9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars

Paul was NOT DISSING Apostles – He was ONE TOO

Paul was EXPOSING the EMPTY FLATTERY of his Critics

FALSE PRAISE for Jerusalem and HARSH INSULTS for Paul the Imposter

He HONORS the OFFICE of Apostle – but Even Apostles are MERE MEN!

PAUL was not IMPRESSED by the PERSONS or POSITIONS of Church Leaders

Are you the SENIOR Pastor? Don't need REMINDER that I am OLD!

3) Christian Partnership - Two RESULTS

a) No Additives 2.6added nothing to me.

NOT Find Paul's Message DEFECTIVE – Been Preaching WELL for 14 years

2.2 ...set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

Gospel Preached BEFOREHAND – Same Message Preached AFTERWARDS

Changed NOTHING – False Teachers are CHANGING Message, NOT Paul

b) New Affirmation

2.7-9 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

RIGHT Hand of Fellowship Extended > Great Job! Keep Going Paul!

1st defends INDEPENDENCE, Now explains INTERdependence Other Apostles

ONE Gospel – Many Ministers and Ministries – Styles and Spheres

We do NOT COMPETE but COMPLEMENT Eachother

as GLOBAL Team to Reach the Whole World

Therefore, we must be careful what we do with this Gospel, for it is not the invention of men, but the very truth of God. Warren Wiersbe

Elder Dave sermon should ANSWER the “So What” Question

Some MAY have CHECKED Out on this SERMON – In DEEP SLEEP Now

Post-Cancer BLOOD Test this Week – Jolt of FEAR down my Spine w/ Email

ONCOLOGY Dept – Mr. Blair it is time for you to come and have a check-up!

Survived 4 Bouts of CANCER – THANKFUL but SOBERED by Mortality

If NOT the Big C – Maybe those Super-sized Double-Beef, Extra-Cheese, Bacon

Burgers Meals with Hand Scoop Ice Cream Extra-Large Milk Shake will Catch Me!

Do I have a TRUE Word from GOD HIMSELF to Trust thru Death’s Door?

You All - Said NO to SomePLACE and SomeONE to live in Far-Away BEIJING

Does it make ANY SENSE to be Here and Serve One who Died so Long Ago?

Is this so-called GOOD NEWS from Paul REALLY Good?

Good enough to PIN your Hopes for Education, Jobs, Family, Health, Future?

Choice ONLY YOU can Make > I given it Much Thought for Many Years

Working thru this TEXT made Me MORE CONVINCED & GRATEFUL to God

We can ECHO in FAR LESS SIGNIFICANT way – Same, Great, Truth

For OUR LIVES IF WE are FOLLOWERS of the Lord Jesus Christ

vs. 15,16 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

Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	Chapters 5-6
Personal	Doctrinal	Practical
Gospel Defense	Gospel Declaration	Gospel Display
Grace and the Gospel	Grace and the Law	Grace and the Christian Life
Establishing	Explaining Gospel	Exhortation
Autobiography	Theology	Ethics
Inspiration	Justification	Sanctification
“the gospel... I received through a revelation of Jesus Christ” 1.11,12	“no one is justified before God by the law” 3.11	“(what) counts...only faith working through love” 5.6

11 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. 13 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. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. 20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) 21 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. 23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 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. 2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. 4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. 7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised 8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), 9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.