

Galatians 1:11-2:10 – Defense of Apostleship

The Book of Galatians started out quickly with a brief greeting and then strong statements by Paul that there is one and only one true gospel. Anyone who is preaching something other than the one true gospel is preaching something that is not a gospel at all and is under God's wrath. Just as it was wrong for Israel to worship false God's, so it is wrong for someone to substitute the true gospel for a fake gospel of human invention.

Read Galatians 1:11-24.

What was the origin of Paul's gospel? When did Paul receive the gospel message that he preached? (1:11-12)

According to verses 13-14, what was Paul's background before he received the gospel? Did he previously support circumcision and following the law of Moses?

What happened to Paul which brought about a dramatic change in his life? When did God set Paul apart? Why did God choose Paul? What was God's mission for Paul? (1:15-16)

Where did Paul go after his conversion? Note that Arabia could have referred to an area south of Damascus which also included Damascus. Why did Paul specifically point out that he did not immediately go to Jerusalem? (1:16-17)

Why did Paul need to defend his apostleship? Why did Paul need to defend his gospel? How was Paul's apostleship and his gospel tied together? What do you think some people were saying about Paul to the Galatian churches?

When did Paul first visit Jerusalem after his conversion? Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem? How long was he there? Which leader did Paul see in Jerusalem besides Peter? Which Jerusalem visit does this correspond with in Acts? See Acts 9:26-30, 11:27-30, 12:25, 15:1-30. Where did Paul go after his visit to Jerusalem? See Acts 9:30. Tarsus was in Cilicia. See Acts 11:25-26. Antioch was in Syria. (Galatians 1:18-21)

While Paul was in Cilicia and Syria, what was said about Paul in the churches of Judea? How did the believers respond to the report about Paul's new life in Christ? (1:22-24)

Read Galatians 2:1-10.

When did Paul's second trip to Jerusalem occur? Who went with Paul? Why did Paul go to Jerusalem? Which Jerusalem visit does this correspond with in Acts? (2:1-2)

Titus was an uncircumcised Gentile. Did the leaders in Jerusalem require Titus to be circumcised? Who wanted Titus to be circumcised? Who were these people? What did these people want to do to Paul and his companions? Were these people true believers in Christ? (2:3-4)

How did Paul respond to those who wanted Titus to be circumcised? Why did he take a stand against these Judaizers? What harm would there have been in having Titus circumcised so that there would be peace and unity in the church? When should we take a strong stand in the church on an issue and when should we, above all, keep peace and unity in the church? (2:5)

Who were "those who seemed to be influential" ESV / "those who were of considerable repute" NASB? What did these Jerusalem leaders add to Paul? Why did Paul say "what they were makes no difference to me"? Did Paul show a lack of respect for the divinely appointed apostleship of Peter and John? Wouldn't that hurt his argument? (2:6)

What did James, Peter and John recognize about Paul and his mission? Did Paul ever preach the gospel to Jews? Did Peter ever preach the gospel to Gentiles? (2:7-8)

What sign of approval did James, Peter and John give to Paul and Barnabas? What conclusion did the leaders reach? What was the one instruction that was given to Paul? What was Paul's point in recounting this trip to Jerusalem to meet with the church leaders? (2:9-10)