

## Galatians 1:11-2:10 Bible Study

**Launch:** What kinds of attacks on Christianity do you hear of these days?

1. **Read Galatians 1:11—2:10.** Where did Paul get his Gospel from?

*v. 11 a revelation from Jesus (not taught it from other men)*

2. Look at Paul's two visits to Jerusalem and answer:

### First Visit (1:18-24)

When did he go? *After 3 years*

Why did he go? *To get acquainted with Cephas (=Peter)*

Who did he see? *Cephas and James (no other apostles)*

### Second Visit (2:1-10)

When did he go? *After 14 years (probably 14 years after his conversion, but could have been 14 years after his first visit.*

Why did he go? *In response to a revelation; to be present 'his' gospel; to make sure he had not run his race in vein.*

Who did he see? *'those esteemed as leaders' (v6) ; 'those held in high esteem' (v6), James, Cephas, John (v9); it seems that all these references are at least to these three, although could be referring to a larger group of apostles.*

3. What was the result of Paul's second visit to Jerusalem (when he met with the other apostles)?

*Titus wasn't required to be circumcised (2:3) – this raises a specific issue which will be the topic of next week's sermon...*

*The added nothing to Paul's message (2:6) – he had the complete Gospel*

*The recognised God was at work in Paul as an apostle (2:8)*

*The extended the right hand of fellowship (2:9)*

4. Why do you think Paul outlines all of this historical detail of times and places and events?

*It seems Paul is defending himself (and his ministry) against some false accusations – and accusations primarily aimed at him personally. (c.f. 2:4)*

*The main issue at stake is where Paul received his Gospel from (1:11-12). Some must be saying he was dependant on the apostles in Jerusalem, and that his message was dependent on them. Paul argues otherwise: he received the Gospel from Jesus – and he taught for 14 years before he met with the apostles.*

5. How does Paul's listing of these historical events affect our attitude toward Paul and his writings?

6. **Read 1:13-16 again.** Notice the contrast between the 'I' of verses 13-14 and 'God' in verses 15-16. What did God do to make Paul an apostle?

7. If you were criticised for not believing the authentic Gospel of God's free grace (even though you did), how would you defend yourself?

8. How can we make sure the true Gospel is being preached in our churches?

9. Finish by praying:

- Being thankful for God's revelation to Paul (and us)
- Thanking God for his grace, as demonstrated to Paul
- Asking that we will hold to the true Gospel of grace
- Other things that have come up