

Galatians 1:11-24

11I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. **12**I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

13For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. **14**I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **15**But when God, who set me apart from birth^[a] and called me by his grace, was pleased **16** to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, **17** nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

18Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter^[b] and stayed with him fifteen days. **19**I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. **20**I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. **21**Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. **22**I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. **23**They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." **24**And they praised God because of me.

Footnotes:

- a. Galatians 1:15 Or from my mother's womb
- b. Galatians 1:18 Greek Cephas

c New International Version

Galatians

#2 – 1:11-24

1. **(Discuss)** Have you ever undergone a career change? If so, what was that like? Are you in a job that makes use of what you either dreamed of doing or prepared to do? Share.
2. Based on 1:6-7 what seems to be Paul's concern with the Galatians about the source of the message he shared?
3. What are some things that must have been a part of the revelation Paul received from Jesus (v. 12, also see 1 Cor. 15:1-11)?

4. Paul's original spiritual confidence was rooted in his Jewish faith. Summarize his background (also see Philippians 3:4-6; Acts 9:19b-31, 26:4-5 and others).
5. What is the common link between some great men of faith as seen in Isaiah 49:1, Jeremiah 1:4-5, Romans 1:1 and in Galatians 1:15?
6. Why is it so important to Paul that the Galatians understand that his message is not second-hand?
7. **(Discuss)** Have you experienced such a strong calling or know another who claims such? How is that possible today?
8. **(Discuss)** Share an incident where you had to admit to being wrong (in your faith or on the job). Why is it so hard for people to admit error and turn in a new direction?
9. **Discuss** how zealousness can be good and bad.
10. Identify some of the Paul's Jewish "traditions" that would make it hard to fulfill his ministry or even to write the book of Galatians.
11. **(Discuss)** Have you ever known someone whose conversion was so transforming it was hard to accept? Explain. How is that helpful?