

The Gospel Was Received By Revelation From God

Galatians 1:1-12 (vv.1,11-12)

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I. Introduction

This Epistle was written by Paul, as we have already established, to the churches in Galatia. We know that he probably founded these churches and lead many to the faith on his first missionary trip. This letter was written to refute the Judaizers or Agitators, who were teaching the Gentiles that they must adhere to the Jewish traditions and the Law. Paul was refuting the Judaizers and calling the Gentiles back to the pure Gospel, which he had taught them. The Good News is for all people- Jews and Gentiles alike. Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus. They could not be saved by keeping the Law, even the Ten Commandments. If one Law was broken, you have broken them all because you must be perfect (Rom.3:1). The Law served as a guide, to point out our need to be forgiven and we needed a perfect sacrifice. They couldn't adhere to all the laws which they had also added on to, which were man made and not from God. What they didn't see was that Christ had fulfilled the obligations of the law and the Scriptures were pointing to Jesus.

This Letter is an outpouring of the soul of a preacher on fire for his Lord and is deeply committed to bringing his flock to an understanding of what saving faith is.

II. Lesson: The Gospel was Received by Revelation from God

1. **vv. 1.** "My Apostleship was not Granted to me by Men, for I was Appointed by Jesus Christ."

Paul opened this letter with identifying himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ. His credentials as an apostle are important to him because he was representing The Lord. We remember that Paul's name which means "little, was Saul which means "significant one or sought after" before his conversion. Paul had strong words for these Galatians, and they need to understand that he was writing with apostolic authority. He had expected that the Christians would receive and respect his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ. He was not just

speaking and teaching his words, but the words given to him from Christ. “My apostleship was not granted to me by men, for I was appointed by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead” (TPT).

His standing as an apostle was not based on opinion polls or from the Jerusalem Council. It was based on a Devine call through the Father and Son (Acts 9). The agitators were indicating that Paul had received the Gospel from man, and he appointed himself an apostle. But that was anything but the truth. In Acts 9:15, God told Ananias that Paul was a chosen instrument for Him, who would bear His name before the Gentiles. For we see in Acts 9:19-22, as soon as Ananias prayed for him and he was filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul immediately got up and was baptized; ate and received his strength; went to the synagogues and began to preach and proclaim Jesus is “the Son of God”. Acts 9:26-27; after Paul escaped from Damascus from those who was trying to kill him, he returned to Jerusalem to introduce himself to the fellowship and the apostles. He shared with them his supernatural experience of seeing the Lord. It is also written that Paul studied the Scriptures afterwards for three years. After all he was a devout Pharisee who knew, he thought the scriptures. He was blinded by the teachings of man but now he was able to see Jesus in them. He was taught by the One who saves (Yahweh) and not by human logic. He was taught by the Word himself (John 1:1). Paul repented and believed the Gospel which in turn transformed and renewed him (Rom.12:2), so he could receive things from God and understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit (1Co.2:9-14). Read v.10-11,14. When God gives you revelations, it means that you are suddenly able to understand a spiritual truth. Revelation from God is spiritual knowledge made understandable. As we read, meditate and study the written Word of God, the Holy Spirit will guide you and give you spiritual understanding.

2. V.10.

I’m obviously not trying to flatter you or water down my message to be popular with men, but my supreme passion is to please God. For if all I attempt to do is to please people, I would fail to be a true servant (bondservant) of God (TPT). Paul was very irritated that the Gentiles were believing the agitators who was masquerading as teachers preaching a Gospel that was contrary to what he had taught them. They couldn’t attack the Gospel without attacking Paul’s character. They alleged that he had not changed for the better, but for the worse

because his message was motivated to win the Gentiles approval rather than Gods'. He was making it too easy for them, so they would look on Paul with favors. What the agitators were doing was confusing the people by telling them, that for them to be true Christians they must be circumcised or follow the Jewish traditions. But Deut.10:16 says: Circumcise your heart and do not be stiff necked any longer.

In Rom.2:28-29 Paul lays out an argument against those who are Jews and are holding on to some level of spiritual superiority because they were circumcised. He is making a clear distinction between religious tradition, which does not save and circumcision of the heart which does. Let's apply this to the 21st Christians.

- ✓ I go to church regularly
- ✓ I read my Bible often
- ✓ I give my offering
- ✓ I serve in ministry
- ✓ I was baptized
- ✓ I am a good person

While there is nothing inherently wrong with these things, none of them point to true circumcision of the heart. True circumcision involves God cutting away things in your heart, which will result in a transformed life. This is what we see in Paul's life, because when he met Jesus, he gave him all of himself. God worked inwardly that showed on the outside. Our salvation is not just the forgiveness of our sin, it is about the transformation of our heart, which result in changed behavior.

3. **vv. 11-12.**

For I want you to know, believers, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel (human invention). For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, I received it through a direct revelation of Jesus Christ (TPT). They must be very careful to distinguish between the true Law which was based on revelations from God and that which was given to the Prophets; from the distorted version that was defended by the Pharisees and the one condemned by Jesus. In Matt.5-7, Jesus referred to the false interpretation of Judaism by saying, "you have heard it said" and to the true religion He said, "but I say to

you”. He corrected to them what it should be. Paul was anything but a man pleaser because he declared himself to be a bondservant for Christ. He was not doing so for the applause of man but for the glory of God who had chosen him and knew his heart. Lk.16:15: Man pleaser. The same Christ who taught the Disciples before his death, is also the risen Christ who taught him the Gospel of Grace. The Agitators didn’t understand the Grace of God. Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. Eph. 2:8 .Paul did not receive all the revelations at one time. It is a daily process that happens as one continues to hunger and thirst to know more about the Saviors’ plan for our life. In 2 Tim.3:15, Paul tells Timothy that the scriptures can give wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus... Also, because the people had to depend on oral interpretation from those who were supposed to have the knowledge of scriptures, they were fed or given a lot that God had not said. We ourselves must be careful on who or what we are listening to 2Tim3:16-17.

Paul once was blind spiritual and physical, has met the Risen Savior as he was on his way to destroy anyone who believed in Jesus. Only God could have changed a raging Pharisee like Saul into the evangelistic Paul. Paul had come to understand the truth that Jesus had told the Pharisees in John 5:39: “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me.” The truth of the Kingdom of God is always given by revelation. They are not understood by human intellect. In fact, they are foolish to those who are perishing. (1Co.1:18; 1Co.2:14)

III. Conclusion

Christianity is different from other belief systems in our world. It is about a real and living relationship with Jesus Christ, God’s way of living, and His resurrected Son- and it starts when we are born again is led by the Holy Spirit. We must repent and believe the Good News and our natural mind transform to the spiritual. The natural or logical way cannot grasp the things of God (1Co.9-14). Paul prays in Ehp.1:16-20; Col.1:9-12 that we might be filled with knowledge and all wisdom.

May we make that our prayer so that we can receive God’s revelation in this world with the modern-day agitators. There is always more to learn everyday about the Kingdom, we must seek the Lord every day.