



Paul Embraces “the Faith”

Galatians 1:11-24



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.



Galatians 1:11

- For I would have you know, brothers, that **the gospel** that was preached by me **is not man's gospel.**



What is the gospel?

Good News!



How many gospels
are there?

Only One.



1. Death

- FOR OUR* SINS
- ON A CROSS

2. Burial

- IN JERUSALEM

3. Resurrection

- ON THE THIRD DAY

**The
Gospel
of the
Lord
Jesus
Christ**

***Our refers to those who have placed authentic faith in this gospel for their salvation from their sins.**

The Eternal Gospel



The gospel is the good news that God is reconciling sinners to Himself eternally through the sacrificial and substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of the man Christ Jesus through authentic faith in what Jesus, the one and only Son of God, accomplished on a tree 2000 years ago on a skull-shaped hill in the city of Jerusalem.



Galatians 1:12

- For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.



The Gospel is God's.

Paul is emphatic; the
gospel did not come
from man.



Paul insists to the churches at Galatia that he received all that he knows about the gospel from the resurrected Jesus Christ in a post-ascension revelation probably in Arabia.

This is why he can tell them they are wrong.



The gospel is NOT a philosophy.

Although it must be believed and will change your life.

The gospel is NOT a way of life.

Although it becomes your life.

The gospel is a historical narrative.

It has a who, when, what, where & why.

The gospel is God's means of accomplishing something.

Namely the reconciliation those who believe.



Galatians 1:13

- For you have heard of **my former life** in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.



Galatians 1:14

- 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.

Paul was an expert in the Mosaic law and Judaism.



If the gospel was to be mixed with Judaism (keeping the Mosaic law) Paul would have been the first to lead the way in a hybrid of grace and law.



Galatians 1:15

- But when he who had set me apart before I was born,
- and who called me by his grace,



“Set me apart” speaks to
God’s sovereign choice of Paul to
be the apostle to the Gentiles.

“Called me” refers to God’s action
in communicating his apostolic
vocation.



Galatians 1:16

- **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;

“reveal his Son” is the kind of language that points to Sovereignty and something more than intellectual awareness.



Paul already had an intellectual awareness of the man Jesus of Nazareth but Paul the unbeliever rejected the truth that Jesus was the fulfillment of so many OT prophecies.

Let me show them to you:



1. The Messiah (the anointed one; the Christ)

- Daniel 9

2. The eternal Son of God

- Psalm 2

3. The lamb of God (Savior)

- Isaiah 53

4. My Lord who rules for the LORD

- Psalm 110

5. The Prophet greater than Moses

- Deuteronomy 18

6. The Priest after the order of Melchizedek

- Psalm 110



Daniel 9:25–26 (NASB95)

- ²⁵ “So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem **until Messiah the Prince** *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.



Psalm 2:12 (ESV)

- **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.



Isaiah 53:6–7

- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.



Psalm 110:1

- **The LORD says to my Lord:**
“Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”



Deuteronomy 18:15, 18

- “The LORD your God will **raise up for you a prophet** like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
- I will **raise up for them a prophet** like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.



Psalm 110:4

- The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”



Galatians 1:16b

- in order that I might preach him [Christ] among the Gentiles, **I did not immediately consult with anyone;**

**Paul is going out of his way
in his language to ensure his
readers that his theology came
from Jesus not the Apostles
Peter, James or John.**



Look back @ v. 12



Galatians 1:12

- For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

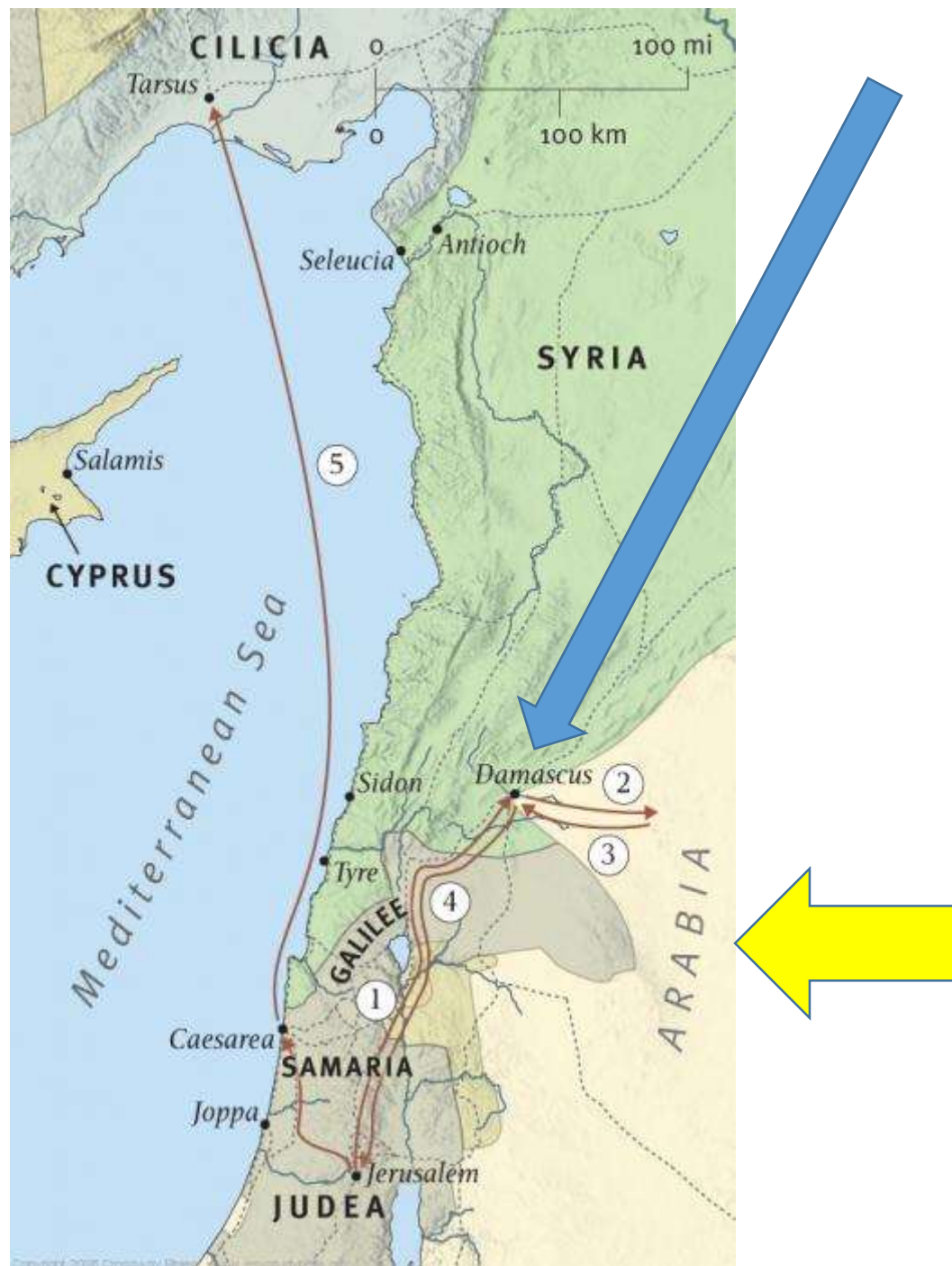


Galatians 1:17

- 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.

3 years in Arabia is a misunderstanding of the text.

According to v. 18 three years in Damascus, Arabia, and Damascus is a more complete understanding.





Turn Over To

Acts 9:19ff

¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. **²³ When many days had passed,** the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, ²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.





What Paul did in Arabia and where he went remain a mystery to us.

But it does seem like Paul received more from Jesus during his time in the eastern region of Middle East.

And his time included preaching.



Look @

1 Corinthians 11

v. 22-23



1 Corinthians 11:23–24

- **For I received from the Lord** what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



Galatians 1:18

- Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas [Peter] and remained with him fifteen days.



Galatians 1:19

- But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Paul spent a little time with only two apostles.



Galatians 1:20

- (In what I am writing to you, before God, **I do not lie!**)



Is Paul a liar?

He says he isn't.

**You have to decide for yourself
what you believe about Paul and
his amazing conversion to
following Christ.**



**What is untenable is denying the
historicity of the man Paul.**



Galatians 1:21–22

- 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.



Galatians 1:23

- They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now **preaching the faith** he once tried to destroy.”



“The faith” is called the “the way” in Acts and the disciples of “the Way” are called Christians. But it is not

- **Baptist, Presbyterian or Methodist**
- **Lutheran or Catholic**
- **Charismatic or Pentecostal**
- **Reformed or Protestant**
- **Church of God or Church of Christ**

In the NT, it is simply “the faith” once delivered.



What are the essential tenets of “the faith”

Paul is now
preaching?



#1 The Creator God of Genesis

(the OT) has one Son who has always existed as the 2nd person of the triune God:

- **God the Father**
- **God the Son Jesus the Christ**
- **God the Holy Spirit**

With particular attributes.



God is

- **Eternal (self-existent & timeless)**
- **Immutable (unchangeable)**
- **Omnipresent (present everywhere)**
- **Omnipotent (all powerful [the Sovereign])**
- **Omniscient (all knowing [wise])**
- **Omnibenevolent (all good [love/wrath])**
- **Holy (morally perfect; perfectly righteous)**
- **Infinite in all his perfections**

#2 God's Son—Jesus of Nazareth




- Temporarily left heaven
- Took on human flesh (the man)
- Lived on the earth as the God-man for 30 years without sin
- **Performed miracles & miracles**
- Perfectly revealed the character and nature of His Father as the greatest teacher ever to teach

#2 God's Son—Jesus of Nazareth



- Was crucified for crimes he did not commit with criminals
- Was buried in a tomb no man had ever laid in
- Rose again on the third day
- Stayed on the earth for 40 more days demonstrating He is alive
- Ascended to His Father in heaven
- Promised to Come Again

This Jesus has a 
particular point in
human history

His story is full of
verifiable names,
places, etc.



- He was born in Bethlehem of Judea King Herod was reigning when he was born and Cyrenius [Quirinius] was governor of Syria.
- **His mother was Mary.**
- He grew up in Nazareth.
- **His father was Joseph a master builder.**
- John the Baptist baptized him in the Jordan river.
- **He walked of the Sea of Galilee.**
- He was crucified in the city of Jerusalem when Pontius Pilate was governor.



#3 Faith (belief) in the one and only true gospel of Jesus Christ is the only WAY one can be saved from the penalty of the law of God. This gospel consists of the

- death of Christ for our sins,
- his burial, and
- the resurrection on the 3rd Day

All manifestations of God's Grace.

The Eternal Gospel



The gospel is the good news that God is reconciling sinners to Himself eternally through the sacrificial and substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of the man Christ Jesus through authentic faith in what Jesus, the one and only Son of God, accomplished on a tree 2000 years ago on a skull-shaped hill in the city of Jerusalem.



Ephesians 2:8–9

- For by grace you have been saved through faith.
- And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

CHAPTER 17

dry morsel, and quietness
than an house full of
noise.
The wicked shall have rule over a
city where the wicked were made, there
shall be love and thanksgiving in the
city.
This is the primeval sin of Satan,
as 6:1 Corinthians 10:12).
See the same verse in
important truth.

21 He that exalteth his back
against his Maker, he shall be
cast into mischief.
22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine,
but a broken spirit drieth the bones.
17:6 their fathers. A great incentive for godly living,
is the example set for one's children and grandchildren,
that they may indeed "glory" in their parents.

17:22 like a medicine
health science that
health is strongly

#4 All Scripture comes from the mouth of God and is our source for



- **Doctrine** (what we teach and believe)
- **Instruction in righteous living**
- **Correction**
- **Reproof** (rebuke)

God spoke first through prophets, **then through His Son** and finally through the Apostles of His Son



Hebrews 1:1–2

- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.



2000 years later these scrolls of Scripture originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek have been

- **Preserved in museums**
- **Labeled and organized into 66 books**
- **Translated into English and many other languages**
- **Set to type for the purpose of mass production**
- **Bound together into one larger book called the Bible**



2 Peter 3:16

- as he [Paul] does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.



#5 The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ the 3rd Person of the Triune Godhead who

- Makes spiritually dead people alive
- **Indwells and empowers believers**
- Seals those whom He makes alive
- **Gives spiritual gifts to do His will**
- Intercedes for us in prayer to God
- **Sanctifies those who He indwells**

#6 Man as the pinnacle of God's creation fell from grace by willfully disobeying God's commandment. This disobedience resulted in both spiritual and physical death being passed upon all men such that humans are sinners by nature and choice.



#7 God will bring this current age to an end with the glorious return of Jesus Christ. At which time



- **The dead will be resurrected**
- **The living and dead will be judged**
- **The saints will be rewarded**
- **Satan will be defeated**
- **Unbelievers will be sent to a lake of fire**
- **God creates a new heaven and new earth**
- **The saints of God will live forever with their God and Lord Jesus Christ in an eternal kingdom without sin**



1. Theology Proper
2. Christology
3. Soteriology
4. Bibliology
5. Pneumatology
6. Anthropology
7. Eschatology



Now Paul Presents

The Ultimate Goal!



Galatians 1:24

- And they glorified God because of me.

**Now we ask and must
answer:**



**Is anyone glorifying God
because of me?**



Matthew 5:16

- In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.

Glorify



**to make glorious by bestowing honor,
praise, or admiration**

**praise, honor, or distinction extended by
common consent**

Merriam-Webster

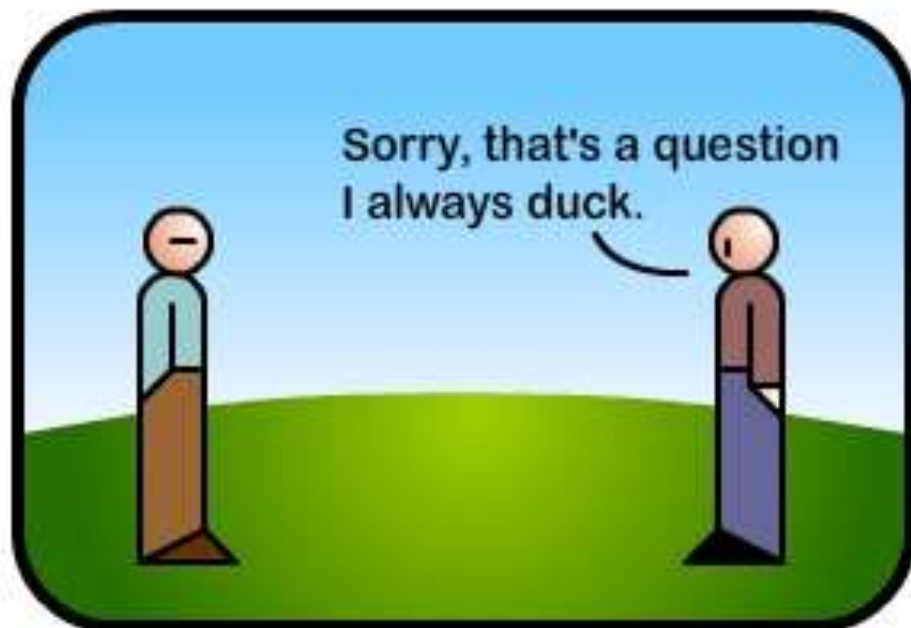
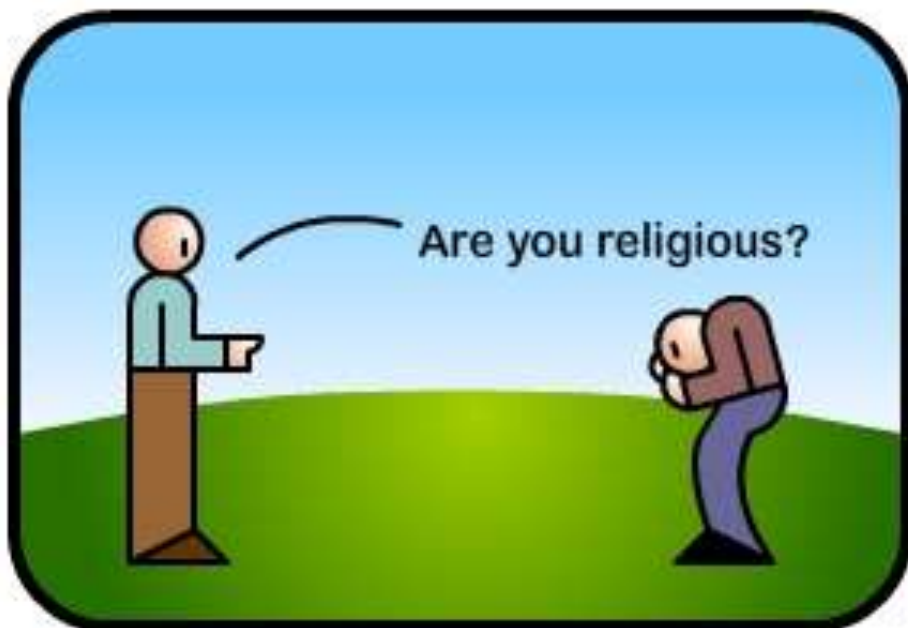


**Do you care about
living a life that
brings glory to
God?**



Here is the reality:

Before anyone will give
God the glory because of
you they must know you
are a follower of Christ.





Galatians 1:23

Paul got Jesus!

- They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us **is now preaching the faith** he once tried to destroy.”