



GALATIANS

VERSE-BY-VERSE



SESSION 20 | OVERVIEW, PART 2 | GALATIANS 1:13-2:14

A PROPOSED OUTLINE

1. Galatians 1:1-12 | Paul Introduces His Gospel and the Dilemma of the Letter. – see session 19
2. Galatians 1:13-24 | Paul's Theological Journey prior to the Mystery
 - 2.1. Galatians 1:13-20 | **Paul's Pre-Mystery Testimony**
 - 2.2. Galatians 1:21-24 | Paul's Early Ministry **among the Jews** before the Mystery
3. Galatians 2:1-21 | Paul's Theological Journey after the Mystery
 - 3.1. Galatians 2:1-14 | **Paul forces Mystery to confront Status Quo**
 - 3.2. Galatians 2:15-21 | **Paul explains** Justification in the Age of Grace to **the Jews**

GALATIANS 1:13-24 | PAUL'S THEOLOGICAL JOURNEY PRIOR TO THE MYSTERY

GALATIANS 1:13-20 | PAUL'S PRE-MYSTERY TESTIMONY

- Verse 13 - Prior to his Damascus road experience, Paul persecuted "the church."
- Verse 14 – During this time Paul was part of the **Jew's religion**.
- Verses 15-16 – On the road to Damascus, God revealed His Son in Paul.
 - This is not the *revelation of the mystery*, but a continuation of Messianic Judaism.
 - According to Acts 9:6, Paul did not receive any mystery revelation on the road to Damascus.
 - According to Acts 9:15-20, Paul preached in the synagogues that Jesus was the Christ. This information is part of the Apostolic gospel, not the Pauline Gospel.
- Verses 17-19 – During the first three years, Paul was preaching the Apostolic (i.e. Kingdom) Gospel unrelated to the Jewish assemblies in Jerusalem.
- Verse 20 – Paul's insistence that **I lie not** is to lay the groundwork for his forthcoming testimony about receiving a mystery. If he didn't know Peter, Peter could not have been the source of his message.

GALATIANS 1:21-24 | PAUL'S EARLY MINISTRY AMONG THE JEWS BEFORE THE MYSTERY

- During Paul's early ministry experience, he was in Antioch.
- After three years, Paul made his short journey to Jerusalem. This is recorded in Acts 9:26-30.
- During the years following this 15-day visit to Jerusalem, prior to receiving the mystery, Paul was **unknown by face** (v. 22) but well-known by reputation (vv. 23-24, see also Acts 9:30-31).
- It appears that Paul made one further visit to Jerusalem, with Barnabas, to take an offering from Antioch (Acts 11:29-30).
- Returning from Jerusalem (Acts 12:25) the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:2-3).

WAS THIS TIME PERIOD A TIME OF THE PAULINE GOSPEL?

- Certainly every commentary and evangelical teacher would affirm that this *was* a time of the preaching of the Gospel of grace.

- What saith the Scriptures?
 - Paul's first teacher was Ananias, who was **a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews** (Acts 22:12).
 - Paul was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, just like all the earlier believers in Christ as Messiah (Acts 9:17-18).
 - Paul's first preaching is that Christ was the Son of God (Acts 9:20).
 - Paul was accepted by the believers in Jerusalem, after brief introduction by Barnabas, with no indication that he was preaching a different Gospel (Acts 9:27-28). Only much later (Acts 15) do we see any indication of a rift caused by two Gospels.
 - During this time, Peter was sent to Cornelius-
 - He had never gone to gentiles (Acts 10:28)
 - He had never eaten unclean food (Acts 10:14)
 - Peter stated that the Gentiles *already knew* the word of God which he was preaching (Acts 10:36-37).
 - The believing Gentiles received Baptism and the Holy Ghost, just like Peter and the 120 (Acts 10:47-48).
 - The Jerusalem church responds to the Cornelius incident by rejoicing that God had allowed the Gentiles to repent, not that the Gentiles came to Christ *by grace through faith* (Acts 11:18).
 - Paul and Barnabas, along with John Mark, only went to synagogues to preach (Acts 13:5).
 - Not until Acts 13:38-39 is the message of justification outside the law given. This takes place well into the so-called first missionary journey.
- Acts 13 takes place at approximately AD 45 AD.

GALATIANS 2:1-21 | PAUL'S THEOLOGICAL JOURNEY AFTER THE MYSTERY

GALATIANS 2:1-14 | PAUL FORCES MYSTERY TO CONFRONT STATUS QUO

- This section takes place at approximately 52 AD. Thus, somewhere between 45 and 52 Paul received the mystery.
- Having received the revelation (v. 2), Paul went to Jerusalem **that gospel which I preach**, and he did so **privately**, giving indication that he was sharing highly volatile information.
- The record and the outcome of this Jerusalem meeting is recorded in Acts 15. In Galatians 2:1-10, the summary of the meeting is given, with the major outcome being that *two Gospels* are recognized: that to the circumcision and that to the uncircumcision.
- In Galatians 2:11-14 Paul speaks of a subsequent meeting (after Jerusalem) in which Peter is in Antioch. Prior to the time that **certain came from James** (v. 12), Peter was living free from the kosher laws, but when they came, Peter "waffled," bringing fear and confusion to the Galatians.

GALATIANS 2:15-21 | PAUL EXPLAINS JUSTIFICATION IN THE AGE OF GRACE TO THE JEWS

- *Stay tuned!*