

Galatians

Chapter One

Verses 11-12

1. Paul referred to the gospel he preached as "...my gospel." **Rom. 2:16, 16:25, 2 Tim. 2:8**
 - Why? Because he did not learn it from the twelve apostles or any other man (vs. 17).
2. We heard the gospel from somebody else, but Paul heard it directly from Jesus Himself.
 - The 12 walked and talked with Jesus in His humiliation **on earth**.
 - Paul communed with Christ in His glory **in heaven**. **Eph. 1:20-21, 2 Corinthians. 12:1-4**
3. Paul wasn't elected by the twelve, nor did he receive his training from the twelve at Jerusalem. This is why Paul's authority and his message were constantly questioned.
4. So, Paul makes it clear that his message was of divine origin. His nonconformity with the apostle's kingdom-based gospel was divinely deliberate. God gave Paul a new message for this dispensation of grace today. **Eph. 3:1-4, 8**
 - Through the **fall** of Israel, God's grace and eternal life is now being offered to individuals in every nation. It is a free gift received by simple faith in Jesus Christ.
 - It was a message of free grace. Salvation is now extended to all. The Gentiles can be saved by grace without circumcision, without the law, without becoming Jews. No wonder it caused severe opposition.

Verses 13-14

1. To prove that his message was of divine origin, Paul is going to give a quick recap of his life. He begins with his past life. We all have a past and Paul did, too. Paul didn't hesitate to use his past as a witnessing tool.
2. Paul was a Pharisee in the religion of Judaism. He was a well known leader because of his all consuming passion to persecute Christians. **Acts 9:1-2, 22:4, 26:10-11**
 - "beyond measure" means "in abundance"
 - "wasted" means "ravaged"
3. Paul was advancing quickly in the ranks of the Jewish religion. Why is this? Verse 14 says that he was "...more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of the fathers."
 - In other words, he was better at keeping the rules than his peers.
 - This is what religion does - those who keep the rules better than others, it puffs them up with pride - those who can't keep the rules as well are laden with guilt and condemnation.
 - Paul was zealous of his religion, yet had no personal relationship with God. Millions today are in the same condition.