

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
"Paul, Servant of Christ--His Past"
Galatians 1:10-14

Introduction

1. The Gospel of God's grace which Paul preached depended upon Paul's character for success. Did his own life support his teaching--this was the big question he sought to establish affirmatively.

2. To accomplish this goal, the apostle dips into his own biographical material and brings up sufficient to give any clear thinking person much to consider.

3. There are four areas in his past life which point to the fact that the Gospel of grace in Christ Jesus is adequate and sufficient ALONE for salvation. Here they are:

1. In Paul's motivation for service. v. 10.
What a marvelous testimony coming from this man's pen! Consider its quality!
 - a. A question. He puts it forthrightly--am I making friends of God or man? From whence does my motivation come in my ministry--God or man???
 - b. A contention. The conditional clause is a second class condition in Greek. Assumes the thought to be unreal!
 - c. A conviction. I am the servant of Christ. Original text has "Christ" first and the word "servant" after Him. To Paul, Christ was everything (Phil. 1:21).
2. In Paul's reception of the Gospel. vv. 11, 12.
The term "certify" is a causitive verb meaning "to make known." There was some information which the Galatians needed to know about Paul's preaching!
 - a. Negatively. Three affirmations made here:
 - 1) Not according to man's standards. Not of man's device or idea!

- 2) Not from along side of men. Entirely be-
side men.
- 3) Not by administration of men's teaching!
- b. Positively.
The means that God used was objective. Paul
was the recipient of a divine revelation!
3. In Paul's conversation before men. v. 13.
 - a. Pursued it. The imperfect tense points up re-
lentless effort. Cf. Acts 8:1-3; 9:1, 2.
 - b. Destroyed it. The imperfect again showing he
was willing to continue any effort to do away
with it. Cf. Acts 22:4. The imperfect shows
that Paul's scheme was never fully carried out!
4. In Paul's education in Judaism. vv. 13, 14.
Three matters are forged here:
 - a. He was trained in it. The word "profited" has
the idea of "striking forward" and hence to make
progress. Those his own age could claim no more
than he.
 - b. He practised it. This is taught in v. 13. His
entire manner of life was support of Judaism.
 - c. He excelled in it. He was a traditionalist and
a true zealot.

Conclusion. The end of all these things is this: Paul's
past life shows that his credentials are valid. His
conduct prior to apostleship enforce his message as
genuine. Here is a forthright testimony that the Gospel
of grace alone is the true message for all.

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