

## **LESSON 3: GALATIANS 1:11-2:10**

### **Paul's Testimony and Its Significance for the Church**

1. Concerning the gospel message, Paul declares that he “did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it” (v. 12), nor “did I consult any man” (v. 16). Why is this information important in the context of this chapter?
2. What enthusiasms and actions characterized Paul's life before being called by Christ (vv. 13-14)? (See also Acts 7:58-8:3; 9:1-2.) What enthusiasms and actions characterized your pagan life? What enthusiasms characterize your Christian life? Are they the same?
3. What does Paul mean when he claims that God “set me apart from birth and called me by his grace” (v. 15)? (See Jer. 1:4-5; Luke 1:11-17, 39-45.) When did God's personal relationship with you begin, at the moment of your conversion, or before? (See Eph. 1:3-6; Rom. 8:28-30; 1 John 4:19.) Examine the steps in the process of our salvation as Paul outlines them there in Romans. What do we learn from these? Finally, what does “grace” mean to you?
4. What is Paul especially set apart and called to do (v. 16; Acts 9:15-16)? Is every Christian called to a special work? (See 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 27-31.) To what special work are you called?
5. Why is Paul's personal testimony important as he defends himself against the Galatians (vv. 13ff.)? What authority does your testimony bear? What *is* your testimony? Are you prepared to “give the reason for the hope that you have”? (See 1 Pet. 3:15-16.)
6. Why do you think Paul “went immediately to Arabia” (v. 17)? And what point is he trying to make by mentioning that he went to Jerusalem “after three years” (v. 18)?

7. Compare Paul's account of his "first Jerusalem visit" (vv. 18-24) with the parallel account in Acts 9:26-31. Describe the scene and the outcome? Why was he sent off to Tarsus?
  
8. What does Paul mean when he writes that he "set before them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles... for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain" (v. 2)? And who are the "false brothers," to whom he "did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you" (v. 5). What is "the truth of the gospel," and what is the error Paul was opposing? How was the gospel threatened in Paul's day? In our own time?
  
9. We normally think of "taking a stand" as something we do when someone is trying to lead us into immoral behavior, but Paul is taking a hard line against people who appeared to be and thought that they were super-moral. Why did the "false brothers" consider themselves better than others? What man-made standards do we impose on others in our churches today? What would you think if a person came up to you in church and told you that God had revealed to him or her that people who dance are not really saved? What would you say to that person?
  
10. Paul writes of another visit to Jerusalem "fourteen years later" (vv. 1-10). Compare Luke's account Acts 11:19-30 Paul's account here. What are the similarities between these two accounts? Differences? How would you reconcile these seeming differences of emphasis?
  
11. "They saw that I was entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles," Paul writes, "just as Peter had been to the Jews" (v. 7). Explain this. What would have happened if the gospel had not been authenticated? What is going on in the church today? Is anyone authenticating the preachers of the gospel? If you felt called by God to preach, what would you do first? Why?