

The Epistle To The Galatians¹

THE FORMATION OF PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP (Gal.1:15-24)

1. Introduction: Paul a pattern to the believers
 - a. Apostles are examples (patterns) of what believers should be. **(1Tim.1:16)**
 - b. The formation of Paul's apostleship is the formation of our apostleship
2. Set Apart By God From His Mother's Womb and Called By God Through His Grace **(Gal.1:15)**
 - a. Paul was set apart (designated or distinguished for a specific purpose) before He was born
 - b. We were chosen before the foundation of the world **(Eph.1:4)**; therefore we were set apart too.
 - c. Being set apart is related to accomplishing in time of the selection made in eternity
 - d. We all were selected in eternity past when Paul was selected, but set apart from our mother's womb at different times.
 - e. Our family, education, relationships and circumstances are according to His Sovereignty and related to His calling of us
 - f. Paul was called to be an apostle through the grace of Christ, not through the law of Moses
3. Having the Son Revealed in Him That He Might Announce the Gospel to Gentiles **(Gal.1:15-16)**
 - a. Christ was unveiled to Paul and shown to him as the living person of the Son of God
 - (1) When the Son of God is revealed to us something divine is added to us.
 - (2) Divinity is added to us **(1John 5:12; Acts 9:15, 2Cor.4:7a)**
 - b. He was set aside to bring the gospel to Gentiles
 - (1) Ensuring Christ's commission **(Matt.28:19, Luke 24:47, Acts 1:8, 8:1)**
 - (2) Therefore, he did not go back right away to Jerusalem
4. Not Confering with Flesh and Blood **(Gal.1:16, 12)**
 - a. Once the Son was revealed (unveiled) to and in Paul, he did not confer with anyone
 - b. Had Paul gone back to Jerusalem right away to the Jews to tell them of his experience, he surely would have been frustrated by them.
5. Not Going up to Jerusalem to Those Who Were Apostles Before Him **(1:17)**
 - a. Paul felt no need to go up to the Apostles before him to confer.
 - b. To go to the Apostles would have been something of religion and tradition
 - c. Instead, Paul brought all his needs and problems directly to the Lord.
6. Going Away to Arabia Away from Other Christians **(1:17)**
 - a. He separated himself not only from Jewish culture, but even from Christian influence
 - b. During his separation he must have received some revelation concerning the gospel directly from the Lord and he probably compared his experience with the O.T.

¹ Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

- c. After having some experience directly from the Lord, we need to withdraw from every kind of religious influence to quietly and soberly check our experience with the Bible
7. After Three Years Going Up To Jerusalem to see Cephas and James **(1:18-19)**
 - a. From Arabia he went back to Damascus and remained three years
 - b. In those three years, Paul prayed and considered even more his experience
 - c. Finally, he went and met with Cephas (Peter) and James (the brother of the Lord-
Matt.13:55, Mark 6:3)
 - d. To confer with *flesh and blood* is wrong, but *to isolate yourself* from the body is also wrong. (**Gal.1:1a & 2a, Phil.1:1a, Col.1:1,, 1Thes.1:1a, 2Thes.1:1a, Phil.1a &23-24, 1Cor.16:1719-20, Rom.16:1-16**)
 - e. We need fellowship with those who have gone before us. (**Gal.1:18²-19**)
 8. Going to Syria and Cilicia of the Gentile Worlds **(1:21)**
 - a. He went into the regions of the Gentiles
 - b. Paul's revelation was not from Christians, most of whom were in Judea
 - c. Again Paul, no doubt, spent more time praying and considering before the Lord.
 9. Unknown By Face to the Churches of Judea **(1:22)**
 - a. Hardly anyone in Judea had seen him
 - b. This proves even the more that Paul did not receive the gospel from any believers before him
 10. The Churches in Judea Hearing that the Former Persecutor Now Preaches the Faith Which Once He Ravaged **(1:23-24)**
 - a. People had heard of his conversion, but did not know him
 - b. They had nothing to do with his conversion

² Paul said he went to visit Cephas. In the Greek, "visit" here means to visit in order to get acquainted with.