

PAUL'S APOSTOLIC COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION: The Apostle Paul spends some time combatting false teaching the churches in Galatia had been hearing about him from the Judaizers. He feels it's necessary to bring clarity to his calling, where it came from, and what he was sent by Jesus to do.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Just as Paul was, be confident of God's purpose and plan for your life.

Galatians 1:11-17

I. HOW PAUL GOT WHAT HE GAVE *vv.11-12*

A. He did not preach a gospel according to man.

1. He starts this portion of the letter by calling them brethren.
2. Although the church was still in its infancy, there had already been an establishment of authority and tradition. *Acts 2:42, Acts 4:34-35, Acts 6:3-6*
3. Paul is basically telling them that he was not part of this established church in Jerusalem.

B. He was not part of an educational fraternity.

1. The Judaizers are most likely telling the churches in Galatia that Paul was simply carrying out what he had learned from the Apostles in Jerusalem. *Acts 8:1, 4, Acts 11:19-20*
2. The Apostles were not teaching him, training him and equipping him to go preach to the Gentiles. *Acts 11:22-25, Acts 11:26*
3. So, Paul was not part of this initial spreading of the gospel.

C. He received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

1. The Greek word for "revelation" is "*apokalupsis*" which means to "uncover" or "unveil".
2. Paul is emphasizing that Jesus himself, through the Holy Spirit revealed to him the word he preached. *Acts 9:3-6, Acts 9:17-18*
3. It truly is the ministry of the Holy Spirit that reveals to us the fullness of all that Christ is. *John 16:13-14*

II. THE BAD GUY HE USED TO BE vv.13-14

A. They had already heard about his former life.

1. Paul indicates that they had heard about his life before his encounter with Jesus.
2. He wasn't try to hide anything regarding his past. *Romans 7:19, Romans 8:1*
3. He regularly shared his testimony wherever he went. (i.e. Acts 22 and Acts 26)

B. He was determined to destroy the church.

1. There is no doubt that Paul hated the Christians. *Acts 22:4, Matthew 10:34-36*
2. He would take it upon himself to get letters from the high priest to pursue the Christians.
3. He stood by and consented to the stoning of Stephen. *Acts 7:58, Acts 8:1*

C. No one knew Judaism better than he did.

1. He states that he excelled in the Jewish religion. *Acts 22:3*
2. At one time he had lots of confidence in the works of the flesh. *Philippians 3:4-6*
3. This puts Paul in the perfect position, knowing perfectly the mindset of the Judaizers.

III. DESTINED TO REVEAL JESUS vv.15-17

A. By grace, he was destined to this ministry from birth.

1. Paul knew that he did not earn his way into a relationship with Jesus.
2 Corinthians 5:14-15
2. This was part of God's plan all along, but Paul had to choose whether or not to walk in it.
John 3:3, 6, Acts 9:6
3. It was truly the grace of God that propelled Paul into who he became and what he did.
Romans 15:15-17

B. He had the utmost clarity regarding his call.

1. He was to reveal the fullness of Jesus Christ. *Colossians 4:2-4*
2. Bring the gospel message to the Gentiles. *Romans 10:11-13*
3. Avoid the flesh and blood influences.

C. He equates himself with the other apostles.

1. Paul knew that he was called to be an apostle, one who was sent from God to others.
1 Timothy 2:7
2. There are at least 25 Apostles mentioned in the New Testament, beginning with Jesus.
Philippians 2:25
3. The 3 years in Arabia, were undoubtedly a time of scriptural consideration through the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 2:10-13, Matthew 16:17*

CONCLUSION: It was Paul's relationship with Jesus and revelation of the Holy Spirit, that He knew fully his purpose.