

## **Taught by God not by man.**

At the heart of the Letter to the Galatians is the question, what is the true Gospel? Also, is Paul a true apostle or is he someone who is turning people away from Judaism for his own gain? Because of this Paul starts his letter defending his apostleship.

Read Galatians 1:11-12 – How did Paul come to know the Gospel after the incident on the road to Damascus (see Acts Chapter 9)?

- Paul's understanding of Jesus and the "Good News" (Gospel) was given to him by revelation from Christ Himself in the Arabia desert. Just like the Apostles, Paul received his training from Jesus.
- "Man's Gospel" in vs.11 is stated as such to make sure the Galatians understand that what he taught them was from God, not something he nor any other made up to fool them. The Judaizers were telling the Galatian Christians that Paul was trying to please them and was not following the true Jewish Messiah. The Law was not being accounted for. [David Curtis](#) says, this:
  - "Paul's opponents charged that he had thrown out the requirements which had been historically laid upon Gentile proselytes to Judaism. Now, he was preaching that Gentiles could be saved apart from

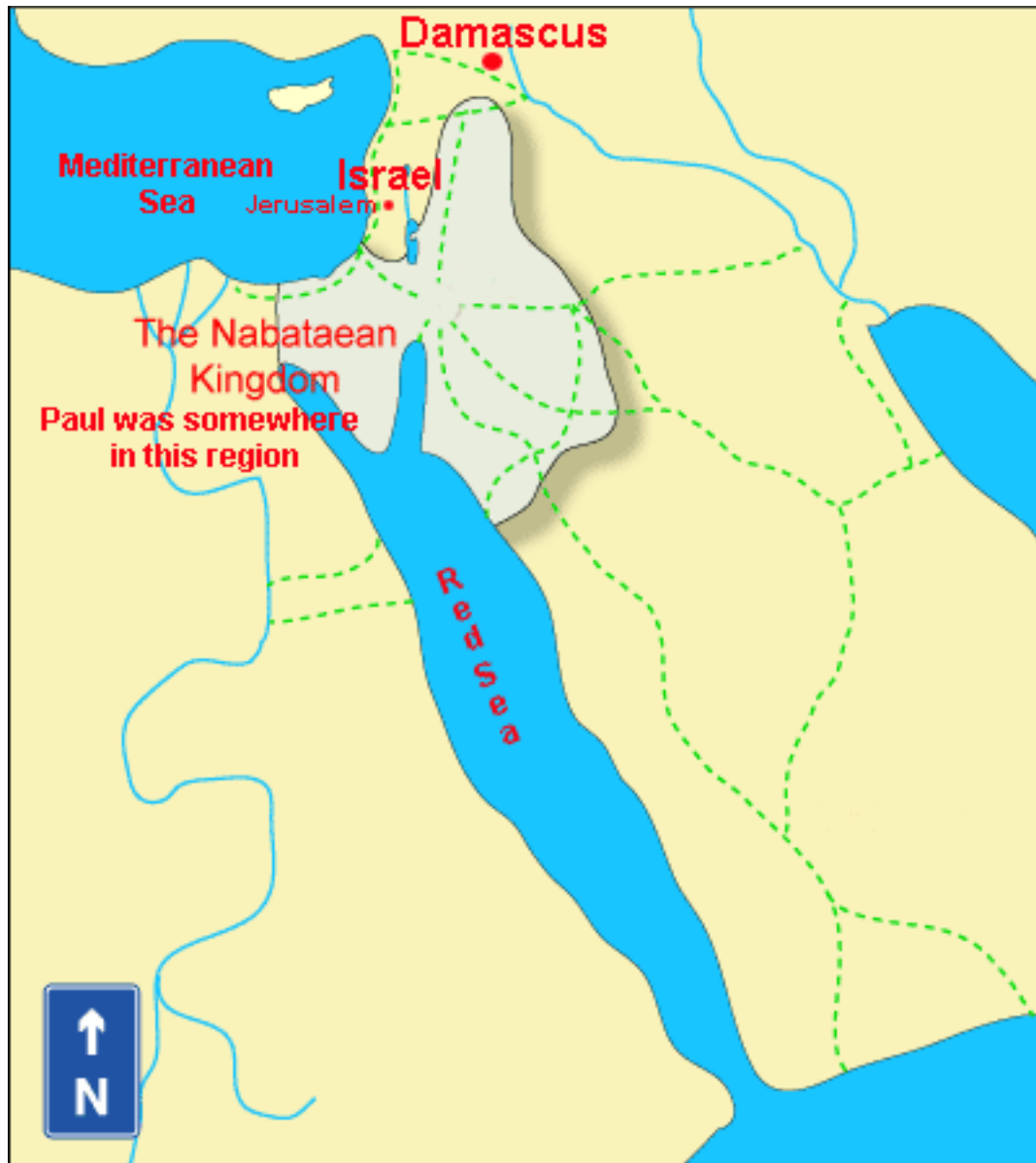
Judaism by mere faith in a Jewish Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

They claimed that he acted not out of integrity, not out of necessity, but out of a desire to gain easy converts who would be indebted to Paul, and who would look upon him with favor. They were saying that Paul was a man pleaser.”

- Vs. 13 – Paul wants the Galatians to understand that he was persecuting Christians before Jesus came to him. Killing them, imprisoning them, shaming them, and destroying their livelihood. Acts 7:58, 8:3, 9:1-2.
  - Notice Paul says, “I persecuted the Church of God”. What was he destroying? What was he trying to wipe from the face of the earth?
  - Paul was ashamed of what he did. 1 Corinthians 15:9
- Vs.14 – “Zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers”. Notice here Paul did not say Zealous for the Lord or Zealous for the Law, but Zealous for what I was taught. Paul study under [Gamaliel](#), a famous and well-respected Rabbi and member of the Sanhedrin.
- Vs.15-16 – Paul understands that God set him apart from his other Jewish brethren to proclaim the truth of Christ. He also understands that this was decided by God before he was even born. Ephesians 1:4 – He chose us before the foundations of the world...

- “A Christian has more than an intellectual belief in Christ” Christ was revealed through Paul. [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 31
- Paul after his conversion on the Damascus road did not immediately consult with the other apostles. Again, his revelation of the Gospel did not come from men. It was not corrupted like the Galatians were being corrupted.
- Vs.17 – Before Paul really begins his ministry, he goes into Arabia to study. Acts 9:18-19 talks about Paul’s blindness leaving him and for the first time in his life he sees the truth. We do not know what Paul learned or exactly when he went to Arabia, but I believe it was between verse 19 and 20 of Acts that he spends 3 years in Arabia.
  - He comes back from Arabia and spends time back in Damascus before going to Jerusalem. Map below.
  - The chronological data in the book of Galatians contains several matters of interest, so I will mention both of them. First, it is helpful to know how, in Paul's time, 'Arabia' referred to the Nabataen Kingdom centered in modern-day Jordan, extending to control Damascus in the north and the western tip of what we now call 'Saudi Arabia'."

<https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/17442/where-is-the-arabia-that-paul-went-to>



- Acts 9:19-25 tells us what Paul did when he came back from Arabia and went to Damascus. From there he goes to meet the Apostles.
- Vs. 18-23 Paul goes to see Peter in Jerusalem. He finds James Jesus' brother and Peter. From there he travels to Syria and Cilicia

<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/paul-first-second-missionary-journeys/>

- Vs. 23-24 – “They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy”. And they glorified God because of me” Powerful. Not for himself, but Paul tells the Galatians this story for their sake. To turn from religion of man to the Gospel of grace given by God.

**Other Questions to ask yourself:**

1. How could you live your life so that people would respect and praise God more because of you?
2. How are you most tempted to fear men & women and seek their approval?
3. How committed are you spending time with God?