

MESSAGE GUIDE

Freedom (A Study in Galatians)

Message Guide for March 17, 2019



CONNECT

Are you the type to do a lot of investigating and fact-finding when faced with a big decision? How do you go about doing your research when getting ready to make a big purchase or enter into a big project?

STUDY

This Sunday we looked into a section of Galatians where Paul sought to provide his apostolic credentials to the spiritually-drifting Galatians. Paul had come to Galatia and planted churches based on the grace-driven Gospel of Jesus. Not long after, false teachers talked both Paul and his message down, promoting a form of Christianity fused with works-based Judaism. In Galatians 1:11-2:14, Paul wrote out several reasons why his message should not be so easily dismissed!

- Look at Galatians 1:11-12. How did Paul learn about the ins and outs of the Gospel message? How does this add to Paul's credentials?
- How do verses 13-14 remind Paul's readers of his religious expertise? How does this add to Paul's credentials?
- Some would think that after being saved, Paul would have been sent to learn under the already-established apostles. But that's not what happened. How does Galatians 1:15-24 describe Paul's journey of spiritual development and ministry preparation? Why is it significant that Paul spent very little time with any of the apostles?

- Look at Galatians 2:1-14. When push came to shove, how did Paul respond whenever the Gospel was about to be compromised. (You should find two examples in these verses.) Why was Paul so confident and bold?

APPLY

- Why did Paul have to put such effort into reminding the Galatians about his qualifications as an apostle?
- Paul spent three years in the desert before he began doing any ministry. Moses, David and Jesus also spent time away to refresh, recharge and prepare for God's work. For present-day Christians, are there any benefits to be gained by periodically disengaging from the fast pace of life? Explain.
- Paul might have been viewed as a "junior apostle" by some because his apostleship was confirmed *sometime after* the original eleven were commissioned. Did Paul act like he was junior apostle/apostolic apprentice? How might the sentiment of 1 Timothy 4:12 apply to Paul's experience. In what types of situations might 1 Timothy 4:12 apply today?
- Paul wrote most of the New Testament letters. Why is it important to know that what Paul writes is trustworthy? How does Galatians 1:11-2:14 cement Paul's credentials as being worthy of learning from?