

Called To Freedom In Christ

Lesson 3

Paul Defends His Apostleship (Gal. 1:11 – 2:21)

Introduction

Though we cannot find any *specific* reference in the letter (**cp. 2 Cor. 10:10**), it is correct to assume that part of the Judaizing teachers' strategy in influencing the Galatian saints was to discredit Paul and his apostleship. The fact that Paul spends a great deal of time in the early part of the letter defending himself leads us to believe he was being attacked in the Galatian churches.

The bulk of **Gal. 1-2** deals directly with Paul's 1st proposition (**1:11-12**). Keep in mind...a "proposition" (*affirmation, assertion*) is not proof. It needs proving. The "proofs" Paul presents would powerfully restore his credibility in Galatia.

(1) What is Paul's 1st proposition? (**1:11-12**) [Page 5]

(2) We believe Paul offers 5 "proofs" of what he asserts. Comment on how each of the following verses proves what he affirms. Supply other N.T. passages in your answers.

(a) **1:13-14** _____

(b) **1:15-20** _____

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(c) **1:21-24** _____

(d) **2:1-10** _____

(e) **2:11-14** _____

- (3) Paul injects a dose of sarcasm in **2:15**. What point do you think he was trying to make? *[Note: this not only ends the discussion of Proposition #1, it connects the discussion to Proposition #2].*

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- (4) What is Paul's 2nd proposition? **(2:16)** [Page 5]
- (5) How does Paul continue his point of sarcasm begun in **2:15**? **(2:17a)** What is the rhetorical question he asks in **2:17b**?

*NOTE: Paul seems to have finished talking to/about Peter in **2:17**. Now, he appears to begin addressing his 2nd proposition on a larger scale.*

- (6) What is it Paul would "rebuild" and "destroy?" **(2:18a)** What happens if he does so? **(2:18b)**
- (7) What does Paul actually write re: himself & the Law? **(2:19-20; 3:24; Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14)** *Thought question:* when was he "crucified?" **(Rom. 6:3-4, 6-7)**

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- (8) *Tricky question* → Paul appears to anticipate a Jewish objection in **2:21a**. What would a Jew (*Judaizing teacher in Galatia*) who objected to what Paul preached accuse him of doing? Consider **Rom. 9:6-18** and **11:1-6** in your answer.
- (9) If this Jewish objection is correct, what impact would it have on the death of Christ? (**2:21b**)