

## Galatians 1:9 – 17

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is  
 2 preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received,  
 3 he is to be accursed! <sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the favor of  
 4 men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were  
 5 still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of  
 6 Christ. <sup>11</sup> For I would have you know, brethren, that the  
 7 gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.  
 8 <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it,  
 9 but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.  
 10 <sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former manner of life in  
 11 Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God  
 12 beyond measure and tried to destroy it; <sup>14</sup> and I was  
 13 advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries  
 14 among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for  
 15 my ancestral traditions. <sup>15</sup> But when God, who had set me  
 16 apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me  
 17 through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me  
 18 so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not  
 19 immediately consult with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go  
 20 up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but  
 21 I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to  
 22 Damascus.

### **Observation (What does it say?):**

What do you notice in this passage?

See suggested questions on the back.

- Mark what Paul says he did not do. X
- Mark what Paul says he did do. ✓

### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

See suggested questions on the back.

- How would you summarize the things he denies? Why is this important to Paul?
- How would you summarize the things he says he did? Why would he bring up his past?
- What other questions come to your mind?

### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

See suggested questions on the back.

- Paul was adamant about not getting his message from other people. Should we listen to other Christians? Why or why not?

How might this passage affect your understanding of any of the seven questions?

Who is God?

What's God up to?

Who are we?

What's gone wrong?

What's God done about our problem?

How is God's Spirit moving today?

How do we join the Spirit's movement?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**