

Galatians 1:15 – 2:4

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

1 ¹⁵ But when God, who from my mother's womb set me
2 apart and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to
3 reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among
4 the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone.
5 ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become
6 apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came
7 back to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up
8 to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with
9 him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I didn't see any of the other
10 apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I declare
11 in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to
12 you. ²¹ Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and
13 Cilicia. ²² I remained personally unknown to the Judean
14 churches that are in Christ. ²³ They simply kept
15 hearing: "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches
16 the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified
17 God because of me. ^{2:1} Then after fourteen years I went
18 up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus
19 along also. ² I went up according to a revelation and
20 presented to them the gospel I preach among the
21 Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I
22 wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been
23 running, in vain. ³ But not even Titus, who was with me,
24 was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a
25 Greek. ⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers
26 had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have
27 in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- **Who? What? Where? When? Why?**
Which questions is Paul most eager to answer?
- What would a timeline look like from Paul's descriptions?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What questions do you have about the passage?

- Why might Paul go into such detail about his travels and the timing and the meetings?
- What would "running in vain" (2:2) look like for Paul?
- How did certain "milestone" events define Paul's life and his ministry to others?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What people in your life help you ensure you are not "running in vain?"
- What milestone events have most shaped your faith and your relationships with others?
- How could those milestone events in your life be a part of helping others in their spiritual formation?
- What would it look like for you to help someone avoid "running in vain?"

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

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)