

A DIVINE INSPIRATION. 2 Peter 3:15-16.

- ❖ According to Peter, around year 60 AD, people already believed Paul's letters had been inspired by God, and they were considered as the same level as the Scriptures (the Old Testament).
- ❖ Paul wrote those letters in common Greek, and he used the epistolary style of his time: (1) Salutation, mentioning the sender and the addressees; (2) gratitude; (3) main part of the letter; (4) conclusion.
- ❖ His letters were publicly read at church, and copies were sent to other churches (Colossians 4:16).

B APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY. Galatians 1:1-2.

- ❖ Why did some people reject the divine authority of Paul's letters?
 - Paul wasn't one of the 12 apostles that Jesus chose.
 - Some people said he was authorized by Ananias.
 - Others accepted him just as a missionary that Antioch authorized.
 - They thought the gospel of Paul undermined obedience because he emphasized salvation by faith alone.

C THE GOSPEL. Galatians 1:3-5.

- ❖ Paul used to greet the churches with two words:
 - Grace. *Jaris*, a variation of the Greek greeting "cheers" (*jairein*)
 - Peace. A traditional Jewish greeting.
- ❖ Then he explained the gospel just before finishing his greeting: Jesus' death makes us free from sin.

D THE OTHER GOSPEL. Galatians 1:6-9.

- ❖ Paul accused the Galatians of "turning to a different gospel."
- ❖ He later explains (v. 7) that there's not a different gospel. They had accepted the teaching that having faith in Christ is not enough for salvation, and that's not the true gospel.
- ❖ Paul is accusing them of being deserters. They left the pure gospel to join another gospel.
- ❖ The harshest words in Paul's letter are addressed to those who were preaching salvation by works (v. 8-9).

E PAUL AND THE GOSPEL. Galatians 1:10-24.

- ❖ The main point of the Judaizers against Paul was that he didn't compel the Gentiles to circumcise (Acts 15:5).
- ❖ They said Paul was trying to win the Gentiles' favor.
- ❖ Jesus Christ revealed the gospel to him "when it pleased to God... to reveal His Son in me" (v. 15-16).
- ❖ In verses 13 to 24, Paul told his life story since his conversion until the moment he was commissioned as a missionary to the Gentiles.
- ❖ That brief autobiography proves that he didn't contact any man that could teach him the gospel. The gospel was fully revealed to him during his retreat in Arabia.