

From Antagonist to Apostle Galatians 1:13-24

I. Ingrained in Judaism - 1:13-14

1. Not a novice concerning the Law - 13
Proponent of Judaism - It was his life
Taught by Gamaliel, highly regarded - Acts 22:3
Persecutor of Christians - his mission
Had believers killed or put in prison - Acts 22:4-5
2. A strict practitioner of the Law - 14
Committed to Judaism, outdid his peers
Pharisee, practiced all law required - Phil. 3:5-6
3. Defended Law against heretics - 14
Engaged in a vendetta against the church
An enforcer for the High Priest - Acts 22:5

II. Intervention of Christ - 1:15-16

1. God's sovereign plan for Paul - 15
God set him apart before his birth
God intervened, graciously called him
God had a special plan for Paul - Acts 9:15-16
2. God revealed His Son to Paul - 16
On his mission Jesus intervened in his life
Blinded & subdued by this encounter - Acts 9:3-6
3. God commissioned Paul for ministry - 16
Commission to preach Christ to the pagans
By God's authority he reached out to Gentiles

III. Instructed by God - 1:16-24

1. Secluded in Arabia with God – 16-17
After conversion, no human instruction
Not taught by apostles in Jerusalem
God revealed truth to him in Arabia
Had to understand function of the law - 3:19-24
Had to embrace the doctrine of grace
Had to see how Gentiles fit into God's plan
Received new truth from God – 1 Cor. 4:1
Word "mystery" or "mysteries" 20 times in Paul's epistles
He returned to Damascus from Arabia
2. 3 yrs. later he visited Jerusalem - 18-21
He visited with Peter for 15 days - 18
Also met James, the Lord's brother - 19
Paul attests to accuracy of this report - 20
3. Next he went to Syria & Cilicia - 21
No apostles there to instruct him
4. Unknown in churches of Judea - 22
They never saw him face to face
5. Only knew him by his reputation - 23
Knew him as a persecutor - Acts 9:26
Heard he had become a believer
Heard he was preaching the Gospel
6. Glorified God for his conversion - 24
Recognized that this could only be of God

New Truth Revealed to Paul

Paul's use of word "mystery" or "mysteries" in his epistles

1. Partial blindness for Israel – Romans 11:25
2. His ministry – Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 4:1; Colossians 4:3
3. Transformation at rapture or resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15:51
4. Unity of Jew & Gentile in Christ – Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:3-6
5. Church as the bride of Christ – Ephesians 5:32
6. New truth in the Gospel – Ephesians 6:19
7. Christ indwelling believers – Colossians 1:26-27
8. Revelation of God comes in Christ – Colossians 2:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:16
9. Unveiling of the man of sin – 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 (verse 7)
10. Leaders must understand God's Truth – 1 Timothy 3:9