

**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS
WEEK 2: THE GOSPEL UNITES**

Galatians 1:11-2:14

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Background

Who? A network of early churches in Galatia [Central Turkey]

Product of Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – AD 47/48

When written? Possibly about AD 50

Why? Infiltration by Jewish-Christian teachers opposed to Paul

Galatians 1:11-2:14

The Problem

- Misleading teaching [“a different Gospel;” - “no Gospel at all”]
- Faith incomplete without following Jewish customs and practice

Paul's Gospel [i.e. The authentic Gospel]

- The good news of **God's undeserved favour to ALL**
- We do nothing to earn or deserve it
- “Christ gave himself for our sins”
- Summed up in one word: **GRACE**

Galatians 1:11-2:14

Paul's Case for the Gospel

- - 1. His Conversion**
 - A revelation from Jesus Christ
 - Life turned upside down. Values reversed
 - A new Identity – “By the grace of God I am what I am”
 - A new Mission – “to preach Christ among the Gentiles”
 - His experience of God proves his Gospel to be the real deal

Galatians 1:11-2:14

Paul's Case for the Gospel

2. Accepted by the Apostles

- Barnabas and Titus. "Neither Jew nor Greek," etc
- "All one in Christ Jesus"
- Apostles raised no criticism of Paul's Gospel
- Gave him "the right hand of fellowship"
- A demonstration of their oneness in Christ

Galatians 1:11-2:14

21st Century Relevance/Abiding Principles

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- Faith is about Freedom; not burdensome duty
- Christian service - the response of wholehearted gratitude to Grace
- Truth must be fought for to achieve genuine unity in Christ
- But be flexible where/when appropriate
- Seek wisdom to discern what's essential

“Hold fast to Christ”