

The Epistle to the Galatians
Lesson #4 • Galatians 1:18-24
Paul in Syria & Cilicia
• H A N D O U T •

We now pick up our study by returning to the book of Galatians.
Despite any disappointment Paul might have felt when he tried to join
with the Disciples in Jerusalem, Paul continues to preach.
His zeal for preaching the Gospel Message continues to grow ...

Galatians 1:20-24 • I assure you, before God, that what I am writing you is no lie.
Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they praised God because of me.

Q: Why would Paul choose Syria and Cilicia?



Q: How should we understand the word "later" when Paul said "later I went to Syria & Cilicia?"

- 1.
- 2.

Q: What prompted Paul to be so adamant about the fact that he was telling the truth?



Q: We know from Acts that Paul actually went to Cilicia before he went to Syria, yet in this letter he states it the other way around. How do we reconcile this difference?

Q: Why is it significant, about Paul saying he was "unknown" to the Believers in Judea?

Q: Why didn't the Believers in Judea trust Paul after his conversion? Doesn't every Believer have a past reputation that reflects who he was, and a new one which reflects the change after he believes?

Q: What did Paul mean when he said the churches in Judea "praised God because of me?"

During the years that Paul was in Syria and Cilicia, living in relative obscurity, Barnabas arrived from Antioch, the capitol of Syria, with a request. This request will profoundly affect Paul's future. The account is found in Acts 11 ...

Acts 11:19b-24 ·...the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

Q: What do we know about the ancient town of Antioch of Syria, which became the site of some of the first-fruits of Gentle conversion to Christianity?



Q: Why did the Believers in Jerusalem feel it was necessary to send Barnabas to Antioch to check out the reports about the Gentiles coming to faith in Jesus?

Q: What did Barnabas find when he arrived in Syrian Antioch?

Acts 11:25-26 · Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people.

(It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

Q: If Barnabas was having such success, why would Barnabas go to Tarsus to find Paul and ask him to return to Antioch to help him?

Q: What was the outcome?

Q: What was the main doctrinal issue between the “Christians” and “Judaism?”

Q: Using the name “Christian” posed what two great problems for the church?

1.

2.

As we return to our study in Galatians, Chapter 2 will open with a leap forward of 14 years ...

Q: But, before we take this leap in time, what was Paul doing during those 14 years? [ref: Acts 13 thru Acts 14:24]



This is where we will pick up our study next time.



Next Time • Lesson #5 • Galatians 2;1-5 • Acts 15:1-35

~~ The Council at Jerusalem ~~

