

## Galatians 1b

## Galatians 1.1-11: Formalities and Exordium

## Introduction (1.1-5)

Paul an *apostolos* – ‘one who is sent’; Used 76 times in the NT, one who is commissioned by God to proclaim with authority the message of salvation in Jesus Christ

- Not from *Anthropos*, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father – Note that they are represented as a team, on the same level (against Arius and Adoptionism)  
Paul’s personal commissioning on the Damascus Road (Acts 9.15-16; 22.21; 26.16-18)
- ‘Who raised Him (Christ) from the dead’ – the attribute of God which is emphasized here
- ‘And from the brethren with me’  
Paul often includes other members of his team in the salutation of his letters: Sosthenes (1 Cor. 1.1); Timothy (2. Cor. 1.1; Phil. 1.1; Col. 1.1); Silas and Timothy (1&2 Thess)  
*-amanuensis* – Paul’s secretary
- To the churches of Galatia – likely the Roman P of Galatia in Asia Minor (Acts 13.14-14.25)

3 ‘Grace to you and Peace’ (Romans 5.12-21); a common blessing of Paul to the churches

Christ:

‘Gave Himself for our sins’ – Ephesians 5.2, 25; 1 Timothy 2.6; Titus 2.14; 1 Cor. 15.3

**Mark 10.45: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

‘That He might deliver/rescue us out of this present evil age’; ‘According to the will of our God’

**Exordium (1.6-10)**

Amazed that ‘you are deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ’ (1.15; 5.8)

In Hellenistic philosophy, one who leaves one school for another (Herodotus 7.18.3; Plato Republic 1,345b)

Consider Israel’s defections: Exodus 32.8; Judges 2.17

What do we call this desertion? Apostasy

7 some ‘disturbing/unsettling/confusing you, want to distort/change/pervert the gospel JC’

8 accursed – *anathema*: something delivered over to divine wrath for destruction (Romans 9.3; 1 Cor. 12.3)

**1.11-12: Paul’s Claim to Authority**

Brothers – Romans 8.29; 1 Cor. 5.11; 6.5-8, etc.

‘my Gospel’ = Christ Crucified (3.1); Nothing can be or should be added to what Christ has already done. The emphasis is on the redemptive work of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15.1-11:** *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*

Revelation – may signify either content or means or both

Usual apostolic qualifications – John 15.27; Acts 1.21-22

### **1.13-17: Saul of Tarsus, Conversion, and Commission**

Authority under attack: *Preachings of Peter*: refers to Paul as ‘the enemy man’ who proclaimed ‘lawless and absurd doctrine’ (Late 2C); *Homilies and Recognitions* (pseudo-Clementine) – accuse Paul of short-circuiting the Jewish Christian mission to the world; also *The Ascension of James* attacks Paul personally

1C Pharaaic Jews considered keeping Mosaic Law essential. Disobedience deserving of harsh judgment - Numbers 25.1-5, 6-15; 1 Maccabees 2.23-28, 42-48

2 Maccabees 6.13: ‘It is a mark of great kindness when the impious are not let alone for a long time, but punished at once’ The Dead Sea Scrolls define a righteous person as one ‘who bears unremitting hatred toward all men of ill repute’

14 ‘being far more zealous for the traditions of my fathers’; Acts 22.3, Philipp. 3.5-6

Second Temple Judaism practices later codified in Mishnah, Palestinian and Babylonian Gemaras, Midrashim, and other collections of rabbinic lore

16 The Road to Damascus experience – Acts 9.1-19; 22.3-16; 26.12-18

16b/17a – ‘apostles’ – Peter and the Twelve (1 Cor. 15.5), also James

Arabia – the Nabatean kingdom of Arabia extended from the Red Sea to the Euphrates River

### **1.18-24: Paul’s First Visit to Jerusalem**

21 Syria (around Antioch) and Silicia (around Tarsus); Paul’s earliest evangelical ministry

22 Judea – Romans province of Judea, including Judea, Samaria, and the Galilee

