

Feb 8, 2015  
COR@9  
Gal 1:11-24  
Ethan McCarthy

## I. Introduction—the Protestant Reformers

- A. Reformers' joy in the gospel, the simple reality of freedom in Christ.
- B. That same zeal for the gospel meant that when the Reformers saw the gospel being compromised or contaminated, they didn't hold back.

## II. Context

- A. Galatians 1–2 establishes a historical context – Paul's own story – for the more expressly theological content of Galatians 3–4.
- B. So Paul gives his own biography, albeit with certain clear purposes in mind.

## III. Paul's Argument

In this passage, Paul tells his own story in order to establish

- A. His apostolic independence from Peter and James (that the gospel he preached was from God, not from other people)
  - 1. Nothing in Paul's religious background could account for his acceptance of the gospel (vv. 13-17)
  - 2. Paul had not been commissioned by the Jerusalem church (vv. 18-20)
- B. That the apostles had affirmed his gospel as genuine
  - 1. The same people Paul had persecuted now glorified God because of the change wrought in him by the gospel (vv. 21-24)
  - 2. The apostles in Jerusalem added nothing to Paul's gospel (vv. 18-20, 2:1-10)

## IV. Paul's Story

- A. Paul's radical transformation – from enemy of Christ to apostle of Christ – is Paul's first evidence of the genuineness of his gospel.
- B. Christ's revelation to Paul on the road to Damascus is the source of Paul's gospel, and thus the source of Paul's authority (vv. 15-16).

“Oh we poor men, that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy which has been given us. This indeed is the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. And we believe so feebly even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing.” –Martin Luther