

Monday, April 29, 2019:
JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH –
“A Study of the book of Galatians”

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the *New Kings James Version* of the Bible.

JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH - "A Study of the book of Galatians"
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LESSON ONE: PAUL'S APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY: Gal. 1:1-14

This is the very first book of the New Testament, written around 48-49AD barely 15 years after Jesus' ascension.

My ultimate goal in these teachings is to motivate you to take massive, immediate action in order to create real and lasting change in your lives.

That goal involves 3 things namely:

1. To instruct - help you people think.
2. To inspire - help you feel what God is feeling.
3. To ignite or involve - help get you to act.

The book of Galatians is built upon the three premises of persuasive communication because of the nature of what Paul was addressing.

The **three pillars** of persuasive public speaking:

- **Ethos** - the life and walk of the speaker.
- **Logos** - the content of the message.
- **Pathos** - the passion and emotion of the delivery.

Galatians was written to address the claims of "false brethren" who had crept into the church (Gal. 1:7; 2:4, Acts 15:1, 24)

These false brethren commonly referred to as "Judaizers" had 3 issues they addressed in the Galatians Church namely:

- They challenged the apostolic authority of Paul.
- They refuted his message of grace.
- They accused him of being a "people pleaser" in order to appeal to the Gentiles.

Paul's goal therefore was to persuade these fledgling church of his apostolic authority, his message which he calls "my gospel" in Romans 2:16; and that with passion.

ETHOS: WHO WAS PAUL? – Gal. 1:1, 10-24; 2:1-14

His background:

- Paul wasn't part of the "first" apostles of Jesus that received the "Great Commission" (1 Cor. 15:8). Those apostles received a direct call from Jesus and their supernatural baptism of the Holy Spirit became a public event.
- Paul was relatively unknown to the brethren in Jerusalem.
- He was first mentioned (in Acts 7:58; 8:1, 3, 1 Tim. 1:12-14).
- Jesus confronted Paul on way to Damascus (Acts 9:4-6, 15).
- Ananias protested against God's choice (Acts 9:6, 10-16).
- Disciples in Jerusalem didn't believe his conversion until the intervention of Barnabas (Acts 9:26-28).
- Used two distinct prepositions to describe his call; "not from" men - referring to the ultimate source of authority and "nor through" man - referring to the agency or channel through which the authority was conveyed.
- Contrast to Mathias in Acts 1:26 (equivalent to online ordination); Most of us were ordained like Timothy (1 Tim. 4:14).
- He received revelation directly from Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:12; 16:12, Gal. 1:11-12).
- 7 sons of Sceva attested to Paul's ministry (Acts 19:13-17, Matt. 8:29, Mark 3:11-12) - **ARE YOU KNOWN IN HELL?**
- He first met with Peter after 3 years after his conversion in Jerusalem for 15 days and then waited another 14 years before he went back to Jerusalem for a second visit.
- While he respected those who were apostles before him, he made it clear that they didn't **add** anything to him, rather they perceived that the **grace** to reach the Gentiles had been given to him just as the message to the circumcision had been committed to Peter.
- Paul wasn't a "**man pleaser**" (Gal. 1:10).

- His background and conversion make for an incredible story of Grace, that when duly considered is of itself a demonstration sufficient to prove Christianity a divine revelation (1 Tim. 1:12-15).
- He became a “**champion of grace**” having received grace himself.

PATHOS: Why was Paul so passionate – Gal. 1:6-10

Christianity was at crossroads; it was about to be hijacked to be an **ethnic Jewish sect**.

- False brethren had crept into the church to bring it into bondage by perverting the gospel and to diminish the essence of the **finished work of Christ** (Gal. 1:7; 2:4).
- Forces of legalism were steadily gobbling up the whole Church; undermining the message of God’s grace.
- The only one holding back this flood of legalism had now dwindled to one man: PAUL; his credibility was attacked.
- Spoke in the strongest and most corrective language to this Church when compared to rest of his letters.

APPLICATION:

- The scriptures spend much time on genealogies to establish credibility;
- Must live a “**wholesome life of integrity**” to get our message across whether at home or at work.
- Should give attention to Paul’s writing.
- We should never take for granted the grace of God in our lives; being ready to **contend earnestly** for the faith.

A final warning.....

You can use persuasive skills

- To motivate or manipulate.
- To build up or to gear down.
- To serve people, or to scam people.

My goal is to persuade people to live out God's good purposes for their lives.