

***“Pure & Peaceable”*: take-aways and applications from Paul’s history in Galatians and Acts.**
 Rev. Ted Wood May 27, 2016

Galatians 1 & 2	Acts 9, 11 & 15
Sources of Information	
1:1,12. “The gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. 12 I did not receive it from any man ... but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”	Luke 1:1. “... many have undertaken to compile a narrative ... 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account ...”
Immediate aftermath of Paul’s conversion	
1:16, 17. “I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me ...”	9:8, 18. “(disciples) led him by the hand and <u>brought (Paul) into Damascus</u> ... Then he rose and was baptized ...”
	9:18. “For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ ... 23 When many days had passed ...” Paul escaped from Damascus.
First years after Paul’s conversion	
1:17. “ ... I went away into Arabia ...”	
1:17. “... and returned again to Damascus.”	Perhaps Acts 9:18-25 (see above)
1st Jerusalem visit	
1:18. “Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas ... 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.”	9:26. “When (Saul) had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas ... brought him to the apostles and declared to them how ... he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly ...”
1:22. “I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea ... 23 ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he tried to destroy.”	9:21. “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?”
1:21. “Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus).”	Acts 9:30. “... the brothers brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus (Cilicia).”
Paul HQ and teaching in Antioch	
	11:25. “Barnabas went to Tarsus ... and when he had found (Paul), he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people ...”
Famine relief collection taken for the Church in Judea & 2nd Jerusalem visit	
	11:28. “Agabus (one of the Jerusalem prophets) stood up and foretold ... that there would be a great famine over all the world ... 29 So the disciples determined ... to send relief to the brothers living in Judea...”

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Galatians 1 & 2	Acts 9, 11 & 15
<p>2:1-10. “Then after 14 years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them ... privately ... the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain ... 4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in ... so that they might bring us into slavery, 5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment ... 6 And from those who seemed to be influential ... added nothing to me ... 9 and when James and Cephas (Peter) and John ... perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles ... 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.”</p>	<p>11:30. “... sending (famine relief collection) to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.”</p> <p>12:30. “...And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John Mark.”</p>
Paul & Barnabas’ 1st Missionary Journey.	
	<p>13:5. Barnabas, Paul & Mark: Paul preaches in Salamis, Pisidian Antioch (13:15); Iconium (14:1); Lystra (14:14); Perga (14:25). 14:26. “... they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.”</p>
Council of Jerusalem. 3rd Jerusalem visit	
<p>2:1-10</p>	<p>15:1. “... some men came down from Judea (to Antioch) and were teaching ... ‘Unless you are circumcised ... you cannot be saved.’ 2 ... Paul and Barnabas ... were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question ... 4 When they came ... they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders 7 ... Peter said, 11 ... ‘we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus ...’ 12 And all the assembly ... listened to Barnabas and Paul... 13 After they finished speaking, James replied 9 ... my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, 20 but should write to them ...’</p>

1. **Paul was seized by Jesus: single minded, focused and not distractible.**
 - a. "Sober-minded" v. "double-minded"
 - b. "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:13-14.

2. **Opposition to the truth will be constant, but "he who endures to the end will be saved"**
 - a. **Galatians 2:4.** "... false brothers secretly brought in ... to spy out our freedom"
 - b. **In Acts.** "they arrested them and put them in custody ..." (4:3); "they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison" (5:18); "they were enraged and wanted to kill them" (5:33); "they cast (Stephen) out of the city and stoned him" (7:58) ; "the Jews plotted to kill (Paul) (9:23); (Herod) killed James ...with the sword, 3 and ... he proceeded to arrest Peter also" (12:2, 3); "the Jews ... stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district" (13:50); "an attempt was made ... to mistreat and stone them" (14:5); "they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city" (14:19).

3. **The Church's understanding is often behind the curve of God's revelation.**
 - a. "When (Saul) had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple." Acts 9:26
 - i. **1st Jerusalem visit:** Barnabas introduces Paul and explain to the Apostles that Paul, 1) seen Jesus, 2) spoken to Jesus, 3) preached Jesus boldly.
 - ii. **2nd visit:** Paul "set before (the Apostles) ... privately ... the gospel (Gal. 2:15-21) proclaim among the Gentiles." When the Apostles perceived that Paul had received God's grace, they gave Paul and Barnabas "the right hand of fellowship" that they should go to the Gentiles.
 - iii. **3rd visit:** "Peter said to them ... 'we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus' ... All the assembly ... listened to Barnabas and Paul... James replied ... my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God."

4. **In the end, personal revelation must be validated by the whole Church.**
 - a. "I ... set before them ... the Gospel ... in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain." Galatians 2:2
 - b. "It seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to ... send ... the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders ... having come to one accord ... it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements ..." Acts 15