

Gal. 1:18-24

I. Paul visited Peter in Jerusalem (18-20)

A. Paul visited Peter, but no others except James (18-19)

1. I went up to see Peter and stayed with him (18)
 - a After three years, I went up to Jerusalem to see Cephas (18a)
 - b And I remained with him 15 days (18b)
2. I did not see anyone else except James (19)
 - a I did not see another of the apostles (19a)
 - b Except I saw James the brother of the Lord (19b)

B. Oath Formula (20)

1. Concerning that which I'm writing to you (20a)
2. Oath formula (20b-c)
 - a Behold! [I am swearing] before God (20b)
 - b That I am not lying (20c)

Why is Paul saying this?

Possibly he was questioned - important point

Not so much disconnecting Paul from the Apostles as disconnecting the Gospel from Jerusalem

The Gospel does not depend on the church, the church depends on the Gospel

The church did not create the Gospel, the Gospel created the church

Apostolic succession does not matter, Gospel faithfulness matters

Jesus said we should not depend on descent from Abraham, neither should we depend on descent from Rome or Luther or John Piper or Mark Driscoll or Aimee

All of these can be good and helpful, but not most important

II. Paul left Jerusalem and remained unknown to them (21-24)

A. Next I went into the region of Syria and Cilicia (21)

Paul's hometown

Where Barnabas found him and brought him into ministry in Antioch

B. I was unknown to the churches of Judea (22-24)

1. I was not known by face by the churches of Judea that are in Christ (22)
2. But they heard about my conversion and praised God (23-24)
 - a They heard about my conversion (23)
 - 1) They were only hearing (23a)
 - 2) What they were hearing (23b)
 - a) That the one who once was persecuting us
 - b) Is now good news preaching the faith
 - c) Which he once [tried to] destroy
 - b And they glorified God in me (24)

Jerusalem's response to Paul is worship of God

Jerusalem did not give Paul an official commendation, but gave him a better recommendation

If people love Jesus more because of being in contact with you, you are doing well

Notice that Paul is stressing that he is not dependent on Jerusalem (like the false teachers were claiming for themselves) but that was a good thing
Paul turns their negative into a positive, without in any way discounting or putting down the Jerusalem apostles