



# God's Official Messenger

Galatians 1:11-20

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020

<sup>11</sup>I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup>I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

It's important to understand Paul's point here, because it outlines this whole section in Galatians and it's easy to misunderstand and take it to dangerous super-spiritual levels. Let's be clear, Paul is not encouraging the popular belief that we don't need other people, we just need God; he is not encouraging just trusting in the inner revelation "God gave me" and not going to others for help in finding out God's truth. In his other letters in the New Testament, Paul makes it abundantly clear we should constantly be discussing with others the truths and revelations of God, because sometimes we are just plain wrong and need correction and encouragement. After all, "even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light," (2 Cor. 11:14) and we need to fight alongside others so we can win!

Paul's point in these verses is that he was chosen by Jesus as being one of His unique, official messengers, much like an ambassador to a king. If you want to know what the king really think and what is important and unimportant to him, you go to the ambassador for this information. You don't trust anyone except the king's officials for this sensitive information, because the king wants people to know with 100% accuracy what he says!

In other words, if you want to know who Jesus is, what He is like, and what His message truly is, you listen first and foremost to His chosen apostles, to whom He personally revealed Himself. Their teachings are the measuring stick for all other truth claims, whether from other people or even our own heads! Whatever contradicts the apostles contradicts Jesus. It's that simple.

Paul was alarmed that the Galatians began listening to other non-official opinions about God and Jesus Christ, because he knew that he only a handful of people truly knew what God's message is: amazing grace through faith in Christ. Do we also want to truly know God's message and will for us? Let us then run to God's Word, written by His faithful, official messengers, and listen carefully to Jesus, so we can fight alongside each other in truth and bring God the glory He deserves!

**Prayer:** LORD, in a world with many ideas, opinions and truth claims, we admit that we often get lost and don't run to You and Your Word first. Please forgive us for not trusting that Your truth is what we truly need for this life. We want to draw closer to You today and ask that You would reveal Yourself to us through Your Word as we enjoy Your glorious presence together. Amen.

**-Tony Grigg-**

