

## **"PAUL, APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES"**

Christianity: A thinking person's religion!!!

### **Epistle Reading & Text: GALATIANS 1:11-17 [Part 1]**

**HALLEY:** Concerning the Apostle Paul: "Next to Jesus, the greatest man of all the ages."

Now you probably know the account of "Paul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus, Syria"? But what about the theological significance of what follows? **CONTEXT**

"In Damascus there was a disciple by the name of Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision: 'Ananias!'

'Yes, Lord,' he answered.

The Lord told him, 'Get up, go to the street called Straight, and in the home of Judas look for a man from Tarsus by the name of Saul. ...in a vision he has seen a man by the name of Ananias come in and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many tell how much wrong this man has done to Your believers [saints] in Jerusalem, and he is here with authority from the ruling priests to put in chains all who call on Your Name.'

'Go,' the Lord told him, 'for this man is My chosen instrument to bring My Name before the **Gentiles and kings** and before the **people of Israel**. Indeed, I will show him how much he has to suffer for the sake of My Name'" (from Acts 9).

**Before we go further, need to get a grip on this "Jew/Gentile" thing.**

The Greek **ethnos** in the plural, meaning "nations" or "Gentiles" (Hebrew: **goiim**).

The Greek **Hellēn**, meaning **Greek** or **Gentile**.

**To Abraham:** "In you will all the **nations** of the earth be blessed"—father of 3 religions.

**GOD HAD A PLAN TO PUT IT ALL INTO ACTION.** First, the Jews & the Jewish Jesus; then a *flood* of Gentiles! As Paul said in Romans 1:16: "...I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is God's power to save everyone who believes it, the **Jew first** and also the Greek."

**So we ask: How did God use Paul to FURTHER His plan?**

**Acts 18:4-6:** "Every Sabbath [?]in Corinth[?] Paul would discuss [?]Scripture[?] in the synagog and try to win **Jews** and **Greeks**. ...Paul devoted himself entirely to teaching the word, solemnly assuring the Jews, 'Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]!' But they opposed him and slandered him. In protest, he shook the dust from his clothes and told them, 'Your blood be on your own heads. I am innocent. From now on I will go to the **Gentiles**.'"

**Paul in Romans 9:** "...God long ago prepared us for glory, ...us whom He called, not only from the **Jews** but also from the **Gentiles**? So He says in Hosea: Those who are not My people I will call 'My people,' ...."

## Epistle Reading & Text: GALATIANS 1:18-24 [Part 2]

**Paul continues in Romans 9:** "What we are saying then is this: The **Gentiles** who were not pursuing righteousness found it, namely, a righteousness—which is received by believing. On the other hand, **Israel**—by pursuing the Law to gain righteousness—did not reach their goal. Why? They did not pursue it by faith but by works. They stumbled over the stumbling block, as it is written:

See, I am putting in **Zion**

a Stone which will cause them to stumble and

a Rock which will cause them to fall.

But **the person** who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

### NOW THE **PRACTICAL** APPLICATION:

**Romans 15:7-12:** "Therefore, as Christ has received you, receive one another in order to glorify God. For I tell you that Christ became a Servant to the **Jews** to do what God promised to the fathers...and to have the **Gentiles** praise God for His mercy, as it is written:

For this I shall confess You among the **Gentiles**

by singing praise to Your Name.

And again it says: Be happy, you **Gentiles**, together with His own people!

Again, Isaiah says:

Jesse will have the Descendant

who will rise to rule the **Gentiles**,

and in Him will the **Gentiles** put their hope."

Yes, "**PAUL, APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES**"

And to repeat,

**HALLEY:** "Next to Jesus, the Apostle Paul is the greatest man of all the ages."

**HEART AND CORE OF OUR SERMON TODAY**—to let you know why you are able to be here today, in this day-and-age: BECAUSE YOUR TRIUNE GOD LOVED YOU; DIED TO FORGIVE YOU ALL YOUR WRONGS, CHOOSE YOU TO GO TO HEAVEN, AND WANTS TO USE YOU IN HIS KINGDOM TO REACH OTHER **GENTILES AND JEWS**—AS DID PAUL—TO THE GLORY OF HIS NAME.

**Conclusion:** Let's get a move on and be an instrument, like Paul. Amen.