

- the Judaizers were basically teaching that in order to become a Christian, one must first become a Jew
- the Jewish Law was written on tablets while the Christian law was written in people's hearts
 - *Paul had lived on both sides of this and knew the difference
 - (The main difference for Paul is the fact that he didn't know God on one side- Acts 9:5)
- vs.17- Paul has just given testimony of his conversion (vs.15-16) and now begins to talk about his calling afterwards
 - (This tells us what happened during the "many days were fulfilled" in Acts 9:23)
- after Paul was saved, he goes on, led by hand to Damascus where he starts proclaiming Christ
 - he then goes to Arabia- this is a wilderness desert that stretched eastward from Damascus down to the Sinai Peninsula
- *instead of going straight to Jerusalem to be instructed by the apostles, Paul goes off by himself and gets instructed by the Lord
- Paul's ministry would be different in the fact that he would be the apostle to the Gentiles
 - after his time in Arabia, Paul returns to Damascus and learns of a plot to kill him by the Jews
 - (This is where he is let down a wall by basket in order to elude capture)
- vs.18- "three years"- this is the total time from conversion until his return to Jerusalem
 - "up"- you'll notice in your Bible that this is the term always used when traveling to Jerusalem
 - (Its always "going down" when leaving Jerusalem)
- "see"- (historeo) its where the word "history" is derived
 - the word means to gain knowledge of or to learn by inquiry
 - he went to inquire knowledge of Christ through someone who knew Him while He was here
- vs.19- James- this was Christ's half-brother, considered the pastor at the church in Jerusalem, and the writer of the Book of James (James the disciple was a different man)
 - Truth- this James was not even saved until after the Resurrection- John 7:5, I Cor.15:4-7
- vs.20- his enemies had apparently accused him of being good with words - a liar
 - "before God"- this is a solemn declaration on his integrity and him being truthful
 - (The only reason Paul would state this is the fact that they were accusing him of lying)
- vs.21- Syria- the region where Damascus and Antioch were located
 - *the church at Antioch would be the place that Paul would be sent and return from his trips
 - (This is the church where they were first called Christians- Acts 11:26)
- Cilicia- Tarsus was the capital here and the home of Paul (aka- Saul of Tarsus)
 - (Paul would stay here and preach for approx. 5-6 years)
- vs.22- he was unknown to them simply because he had only visited Jerusalem briefly
 - (He hadn't formed any other acquaintances with any of the churches in Judea)
 - *Judea was the area immediately outside of Jerusalem
- "in Christ"- he states this to show them that there was no indifference between he and these churches
- vs.23- even though they had never seen Paul, they had heard about what God had done in him and what God was doing through him
 - "now preacheth"- present tense- this means that they continued to hear about God's mission and His use of Paul
- vs.24- "glorified"- (doxazo) to praise, magnify, and honor
 - *when a church is "in Christ" and hears of how God is working and how lives are being changed, the people in it will always rejoice and glorify God