

The Training of the One

Galatians 1:13-24; Acts 9:17-31

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Certain institutions and organizations carry more clout than others.
- Who is your mentor? Who tutored you?
- The original apostles studied under the Master, Jesus Christ
- What about the apostle Paul? Where did he get his training? Who is his mentor?
- Paul claims to be a genuine apostle of Jesus Christ preaching an authoritative message. And he claims that no one taught him, but rather he was disciplined by Jesus Christ.
- But does the storyline of Paul's life back up his claims?
 - Nothing in Paul's Jewish upbringing accounts for his later ministry
 - Paul's personal encounter with Jesus Christ accounts for everything

The Training of the One: The Story continues....

- A. Immediately after conversion, Paul is baptized, publicly identifying himself as a follower of Jesus Christ. Acts 9:18**
- B. Immediately after his baptism, Paul does not confer with "*flesh and blood*", but is led by the Spirit to the wilderness of Arabia to be trained by the Lord Himself.**
1. "Arabia"—Mt. Sinai was in the Arabian wilderness—Gal. 4:25
 2. Paul had the resident teacher, the Holy Spirit, living within—John 15:26; 16:12-14
 3. Jesus Christ revealed truth directly to Paul
 - a. Information regarding the person and work of Christ—1 Cor. 11
 - b. "Mysteries"—truth concealed in the OT, revealed in the New
 - 1) The nature of the new life—Colossians 1:27-29
 - 2) The makeup of the church—Ephesians 3:2-9
 - 3) The rapture of the church—1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
 - 4) The resurrection of our bodies—1 Corinthians 15:51-53
 4. The need for us to learn in solitude, trained by the Spirit
- C. After returning from the wilderness, Paul immediately begins preaching in the synagogues in Damascus that "*Jesus is the Son of GOD*"—Acts 9:20-22. He would eventually be run out of town!**
- D. He makes a "*social call*" to Peter and James in Jerusalem—Galatians 1:18-19**
1. "Cold" initial reception—Acts 9:26
 2. Intervention of Barnabas
- E. Known only by name to the churches in Judea—Galatians 1:22-24**