

Galatians 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Analysis

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: God's purpose in calling Paul was "to reveal his Son in me" (apokalypsai ton hyion autou en emoi, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοί). Apokalyptō (ἀποκαλύπτω) means "unveil, disclose." Christ was revealed "in" (en) Paul—internal revelation producing transformation, not merely external vision. The Damascus road light (Acts 9) corresponded to internal illumination.

"That I might preach him among the heathen" (hina euangelizōmai auton en tois ethnesin) states purpose—Paul's apostleship was specifically to Gentiles (Romans 11:13, Ephesians 3:8). Euangelizō (εὐαγγελίζω) means "proclaim good news." "Heathen" (ethnē, ἔθνη) means "nations, Gentiles"—non-Jewish peoples. His calling explains his gospel's emphasis on grace apart from Torah—Gentiles have no Jewish heritage to rely on.

"Immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood" (eutheōs ou proanethemēn sarki kai haimati)—eutheōs (εὐθέως, "immediately") stresses Paul's independence. Prosanati̇thēmi (προσανατίθηναι) means "consult, lay before for consideration." "Flesh and blood" is Semitism for human beings. Paul didn't seek human counsel, approval, or instruction—his gospel came fully formed from Christ.

Historical Context

Paul's Gentile mission was controversial. Jerusalem church initially resisted Gentile inclusion (Acts 10-11, 15). Peter required special revelation to baptize Cornelius. James led conservatives maintaining Torah observance. Paul's claim to independent, direct commission to Gentiles bypassed Jerusalem authority, threatening ecclesiastical unity. His insistence that he didn't consult apostles after conversion (verse 17) proves his gospel wasn't derived from or subordinate to theirs. Acts 9 shows Ananias ministered to Paul, and he preached in Damascus synagogues, but Paul emphasizes he didn't journey to Jerusalem for apostolic authorization. His three-year Arabian period (verse 17) allowed divine instruction, not human tutoring.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes Christ being revealed "in" you from mere intellectual knowledge "about" Him?
2. What is your specific calling in God's kingdom, and how does it shape your understanding of biblical priorities?
3. When do you need human counsel, and when might seeking human approval compromise obedience to direct divine guidance?

Interlinear Text

ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτὸν ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα
To reveal ^{G3588} **Son** **him** **among** **me** **that**
^{G601} ^{G5207} ^{G846} ^{G1722} ^{G1698} ^{G2443}

εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν εὐθέως οὐ
I might preach **him** **among** ^{G3588} **the heathen** **immediately** **not**
^{G2097} ^{G846} ^{G1722} ^{G1484} ^{G2112} ^{G3756}

προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι
I conferred **with flesh** **and** **blood**
^{G4323} ^{G4561} ^{G2532} ^{G129}

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:17 (Blood): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.