

Galatians 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:

Analysis

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me. The repeated phrase *hoi dokountes einai ti* (οἱ δοκοῦντες εἶναι τι, "those reputed to be something") refers to the Jerusalem apostles—Peter, James, and John. Paul's parenthetical *hopoioi pote ēsan ouden moi diapherei* (ὅποιοί ποτε ἦσαν οὐδέν μοι διαφέρει, "what they once were makes no difference to me") isn't dismissive but establishes spiritual equality.

The theological principle: *prosōpon ho theos anthrōpou ou lambanei* (πρόσωπον ὁ Θεὸς ἀνθρώπου οὐ λαμβάνει, "God accepts no man's person/face"). The idiom *prosōpon lambanō* means showing favoritism based on external status—God doesn't privilege some apostles over others based on their relationship with the earthly Jesus. Paul walked with the risen Christ; his apostolic authority was equally direct and valid.

The result: *ouden prosanethento* (οὐδὲν προσανέθεντο, "they added nothing"). The Jerusalem apostles couldn't improve Paul's gospel because it came by revelation from Christ himself. This verse demolishes hierarchical claims—no human authority, however impressive, can validate or modify the gospel received by divine

revelation. Truth isn't determined by credentials but by conformity to Christ's finished work.

Historical Context

The "pillar" apostles had walked with Jesus for three years, witnessed His resurrection, and led the Jerusalem church. In ancient honor-shame culture, their status was unassailable. Paul's claim to equal authority despite his past as a persecutor and his lack of time with the earthly Jesus was shocking. Yet he insists God's calling, not human pedigree, establishes apostolic authority—a radically counter-cultural claim.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why might impressive religious credentials or spiritual pedigree actually hinder dependence on God's grace?
2. In what ways do modern Christians show favoritism based on external status rather than God's impartial calling?
3. What human authorities in your life do you rely on more than direct relationship with Christ through His word?

Interlinear Text

ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν δοκοῦντες εἶναι τι ὁποῖοι ποτε
of But G3588 these who seemed to be somewhat (whatsoever) G4218
G575 G1161 G1380 G1511 G5100 G3697

ἥσαν οὐδὲν μοι διαφέρει· πρόσωπον θεὸς ἀνθρώπου
they were no to me it maketh person God man's
G2258 G3762 G3427 G1308 G4383 G2316 G444

οὐ λαμβάνει ἐμοὶ γὰρ οἱ δοκοῦντες οὐδὲν
no accepteth to me for G3588 these who seemed no
G3756 G2983 G1698 G1063 G1380 G3762

προσανέθεντο

to be somewhat in conference added

G4323

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 2:2 (Parallel theme): And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Acts 10:34 (References God): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

2 Corinthians 12:11 (Parallel theme): I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

Romans 2:11 (References God): For there is no respect of persons with God.

2 Corinthians 11:5 (Parallel theme): For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

Galatians 6:3 (Parallel theme): For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

1 Peter 1:17 (Parallel theme): And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Hebrews 13:17 (Parallel theme): Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org