

What is the value of history?

- Understanding where we're coming from helps us understand where we are and where we're going.
- Paul's Galatian context is that there are "Judaizers" trying to influence the church away from him.
- He tells his story to guide the church towards confidence in the gospel of faith in Christ.

Paul's history Part 1...

- The divine origins of Paul's gospel: the "superjew" transformed by God (1:11-16)
- The unusual response: the convert who didn't need teaching (1:11-24)

Paul's history Part 2...

- Fourteen years later, Paul hits Jerusalem again as tensions mount between Jewish and Gentile populations, inside and outside the church.
- Despite the difficulty and the tension, the church remains unified around salvation by faith in Christ alone. Grace wins the day.

Further discussion

1. Does it matter that my/your gospel is not "from God" directly like Paul? Can we ever be as sure as Paul was that we have truth?
2. Does someone's pedigree matter in preaching the gospel? Do we really NEED "qualified leaders" or is anyone's interpretation equally valid?
3. What actually makes a good Christian? What might we be adding or subtracting from the requirements of following Jesus?