

PAUL IN ARABIA

Galatians 1:13-17

Deserts can be effective classrooms for Christians

I. PAUL'S CONDITION (13-14)

- A. PERSECUTING THE CHURCH (13)
- B. ADVANCING IN JUDAISM (14)

II. GOD'S CALL (15-16b)

- A. PLANNED FROM PAUL'S CONCEPTION (15)
- B. PLEASED TO REVEAL HIS SON IN PAUL (16a)
- C. PREPARED HIM TO PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES (16b)

III. PAUL'S PREPARATION (16c-17b)

- A. PURSUING NO SUPPORTERS (16c-17a)
- B. PONDERING GOD'S SURPRISE (17b)
 - Going away to consider what God had done
- C. PROCESSING HIS SALVATION (17b)
 - 1. Realizing Jesus had arrested and redirected him - Acts 9:5-6
 - 2. Recognizing the One he persecuted was God's Son - Acts 26:15
 - 3. Becoming overwhelmed by God's love! - I Tim. 1:12-17
 - 4. Learning to discount his past - Phil. 3:4-7
- D. PREPARING FOR SERVICE (17b)
 - 1. Appointed Proclaimer - Acts 26:16-18
 - 2. Fundamentally Changed - Phil. 3:8-14
 - 3. Theologically Grounded - Romans 1-11

IV. **PAUL'S PROCLAMATION** (17d)

A. RETURNING TO DAMASCUS

B. CONFOUNDING THE JEWS - Acts 9:22b

C. PROVING JESUS IS THE MESSIAH - Acts 9:22c

CONCLUSION:

Paul's desert preparation was essential for his future ministry

There is value in taking time away

1. Are we willing to go away to ponder?
2. Are we willing to go away to process?
3. Are we willing to go away to prepare?

May God clearly direct us to the desert we each might need.