

1. Last week I taught in part Gal 1:14 and when time expired we were about to exegete the phrase “zealous of the traditions.”
2. Before we continue you may want to use the grace provisions of 1Jo 1:9 by silently naming your sins to God as the Holy Spirit may or may not show.
3. I want to provide an expanded translation of Gal 1:11-13 and then we will resume our analysis of Gal 1:14.



### Expanded Translation

**Gal 1:11 My brothers and sisters in Christ, I want you to know that the good news of salvation that I have preached to you is not something I learned from any man or group of men;**

**Gal 1:12 for you see I did not receive what I proclaimed to you from any man, nor was I taught in any formal setting, but rather that which I preached to you I received as a revelation from Jesus Christ just after my conversion experience on the road to Damascus. All of which came as a result of a series of revelations from God Himself while I resided in the Arabian Desert.**

**Gal 1:13 Certainly by now you have all heard of my deportment and manner of life, and how I zealously and continuously pursued for the purpose of maligning, wasting and persecuting the church of God;**

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of Gal 1:14 which in the KJV has been translated “*And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly ...*” noting it might better be translated “**I was advancing in Judaism far beyond any of my contemporaries, and I was so recognized as being more exceedingly zealous ...**”

5. The entire verse has been translated in the KJV.

KJV-Sentence continues

Gal 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

6. Let me review some of that learned and then we will continue our analysis of verse fourteen.

7. Paul's unusual determination and excess of fury earned for him an exceptional reputation in Judaism.

7.1 He kept advancing in devotion to his faith and its traditions, passing by men of his own age, and giving proof of his zeal by persecuting Christians.

7.2 Humane considerations meant nothing to him compared with the fulfillment of his calling in behalf of his religion.

7.3 He regarded his murderous activity as his duty. It was done in the service of God. Clearly, then, Paul could not have been influenced in favor of the gospel before his conversion, and he could not have received his message from men, as alleged by the Judaizers.

7.4 It is these points he wished to make clear in this letter to the Galatians.

8. The phrase "being more exceedingly" describes Paul's special dedication to the Mosaic law and the writings of ancient Judaism.

9. Now for the phrase "zealous of the traditions."

ZEALOUS OF THE TRADITIONS ζηλωτησ παραδοσισ

1. **Zelotes Paradosis** is better translated "zeal for the traditions ..."

2. **Zelotes** is a noun used here as an adjective followed by the noun **Paradosis**, declined as a genitive singular.

3. **Zelotes** can be found five times in the New Testament, where in the KJV it is translated "zeal, zealous" or "eager."

3.1 Let's see how it is used elsewhere in Scripture.

KJV

Acts 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all **zealous** of the law:

Acts 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

NIV

Acts 22:3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as **zealous** for God as any of you are today.

NIV

1Co 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are **eager** to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

1Co 14:13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.

1Co 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

Tit 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Tit 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Tit 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager** to do what is good.

Tit 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

4. **Paradosis** appears thirteen times in the New Testament where it is translated in the KJV "tradition, traditions" or "ordinances." Several illustrations will illustrate its meaning.

1Co 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the **ordinances**, as I delivered them to you.

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the **tradition** of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the **traditions** which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the **tradition** which he received of us.

2Th 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

2Th 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

2Th 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

5. Paul in Gal 1:14 uses **Paradosis** for the teachings of Judaism. This would certainly include the Old Testament Scriptures, and the Talmudic writings.

OF MY FATHERS. Ο ΠΑΤΡΙΚΟΣ ΕΓΩ.

1. **Ho Patrikos Ego** is well translated “of my fathers.”

2. **Patrikos** is a monadic noun declined as a genitive plural followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> person pronoun **Ego**, declined as a genitive singular.

3. **Patrikos** comes from the noun **Pater** translated “father.” **Patrikos** in this case refers to the many generations preceding Paul who were faithful to the Word.

3.1 Particularly does he refer here to those Old Testament prophets, priests and kings and scribes, such as Gamaliel. **Patrikos** is a hapax legomenon meaning it can only be found one time in the New Testament.

4. Now let’s see how our entire verse looks by way of an expanded translation.

#### **Expanded Translation**

**Gal 1:14 and I Paul made continual progress and advancement in Judaism above many of my contemporaries, while possessing an excessive zeal for the traditions of my Jewish forefathers.**

5. Now let’s see what we can learn from Gal 1:15.

KJV-New Sentence

Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

NIV

Gal 1:15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased

BUT WHEN IT PLEASED GOD ΔΕ ΟΤΕ ΕΥΔΟΚΕΩ

1. **De Hote Eudokeo** is well translated “But when it pleased ...” or “But when it delighted God ...”

2. **De** is an adversative conjunction followed by the adverb **Hote** and the verb **Eudokeo**, parsed as a 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, aorist active indicative.

3. There is no Greek word for God although it is certainly implied given the context.

4. **Eudokeo** appears more than 20 times, where it is translated “pleased, well pleased, hath pleased, willing, take pleasure” and “were willing.” Several uses will illustrate the context and meaning of this verb.

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