

B. Paul's authority is further witnessed to by the way in which the other apostles received him

1. At the Council of Jerusalem

(In 50 A. D. there was a meeting of the leaders of the Christian church in Jerusalem. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the evangelization of the Gentiles. The meeting was occasioned by the fact of Barnabas and Paul's successful work among the Gentiles in Syrian Antioch. There were those in the Jerusalem body who thought the Gentile Christians should be circumcised and be taught to keep certain aspects of the law in order to be saved. This question was settled by the apostolic company. The fuller record of the Council is given in Acts 15.)

a. why Paul went to the Council

- (1) God commanded him to go "by revelation" (verse 2)
- (2) he wanted the other apostles to know his stand (verse 2)

b. the example of Titus (verses 3-5)

- (1) Paul brought him along as an example of a Gentile convert. There were those who thought Titus should submit to the rite of circumcision. Paul stood his ground and would not yield to these requests.

c. the reaction of the other apostles

- (1) They gave to Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship and commended them for their work among the Gentiles. (verses 6-10)

2. At Syrian Antioch

a. Paul withstood Peter for his inconsistency

- (1) The fact that Peter accepted this rebuke is further proof that Paul's authority was fully recognized by the other apostles.

Conclusion: This historical account shows that Paul's authority came directly from God. The Resurrected Christ commissioned Paul on the road to Damascus. Those that were accusing Paul of being a man-made apostle had no factual support for their accusations. The record also clearly shows that there was no conflict between the early leaders of the Church in regard to the nature of the Gospel.

TABLE OF PAULINE DATES

Birth of Paul	after Passover, B. C.	1
Entrance on public life in his thirtieth year	after Passover, A. D.	29
Conversion.	January 25,	" 32
First visit to Jerusalem (in the third year, Galatians 1:18)	"	34
Second visit to Jerusalem (in the fourteenth year, Gal. 2:1)	"	45

(from Pauline and Other Studies by Sir W. M. Ramsay, page 365)