

4. **What was the human author of this letter, and why should they accept what he said?**

Gal 1:1 answers this question:

“Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man)”

- he was an ‘apostle’ = an ambassador; one who is sent as a representative to speak with authority on behalf of the one he represents
- he was made an apostle not by any human being; and he did not represent any human being or human institution

“an apostle ... through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead”

- Paul was appointed by, and represented, the resurrected, living Lord Jesus Christ!

He mentions the resurrection here to emphasize that it was not during Jesus earthly ministry that Paul was made an apostle; rather the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ personally appeared to him, commissioned him and sent him.

- furthermore, his authority was from God the Father ... the true & living God!

Therefore, this letter represented not just Paul’s own ideas or opinions, but was **God’s** Word to the believers. It came with the authority of the Lord & Head of the church, Jesus Christ.

Cf. Galatians 1:11-12 “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. (12) For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Therefore they should

1. accept this letter & it’s teachings, rebukes, corrections
2. obey the instructions & exhortations provided

**Application:** as we study this part of the Scriptures, **we** must also be careful to have a right & submissive attitude, to receive what the Lord is saying to us. Accept it as the authoritative Word of the living God, and put it into practice in our lives!

Cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

Cf. **James 1:21-22** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (22) But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves.