

Galatians 2:1–10

¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

² And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

³ Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

⁴ And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

⁵ to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

⁶ But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

⁷ But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

⁸ (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

¹⁰ They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

Protecting the Gospel **Galatians 2:1-10**

INTRO:

Paul described how he received his Gospel in the last part of **chapter 1**. There he emphasized how he did not receive it from the Apostles nor was he taught from any other person. Rather, the Lord Jesus revealed it to him directly. In our text today, Paul recorded how by direct revelation from the Lord, he finally went up to Jerusalem to present his Gospel to the Apostles.

I. I Went To Jerusalem Because the Lord Told Me to Go (v. 1-2)

II. There were False Brethren there (v.3-5)

III. The Apostles Proclaim the Same Gospel I Do (v.6-10)

I. I Went To Jerusalem Because the Lord Told Me to Go (v. 1-2)

Galatians 2:1-2 ***“Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.”***

A. Paul fast forwarded fourteen years in **verse 1**. We are not told at first why Paul, Barnabas, and Titus went to Jerusalem. It is critical we recognize Paul did not go after all this time to curry favor with the Jerusalem church leaders or to get their stamp of approval on Paul’s Gospel.

B. Paul traveled to Jerusalem because the Lord told him by revelation it was time to go. Providentially this visit took place before Paul was compelled to write this letter to the Galatian churches because they were playing with a non-gospel. God’s timing is always perfect.

C. When he arrived, Paul presented his Gospel (the only Gospel) to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem. We know from **verse 9** that these leaders were James, Peter, and John. We are told Paul ***“communicated to them that Gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.”*** Does this imply that Paul was somehow insecure about the truth of his Gospel? This would indicate that Paul was uncertain about the direct revelation Christ gave him and undermine much of what he said in chapter one. Paul wasn’t afraid he preached the wrong Gospel, only that the Apostles might not be preaching the real Gospel.

II. There were False Brethren there (v.3-5)

Galatians 2:3-5 ***“Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield***

submission even for an hour, [in order] that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”

A. Paul interrupted his narrative to make an important point that will undermine those who were doing the damage in Galatia. He told about Titus and the false brethren tried to force the circumcision requirement upon Titus.

“Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.”

Paul no doubt took Titus with him as evidence of a Gentile who was converted and serving God. The Apostles in Jerusalem did not require that Titus be circumcised.

B. There was a group of ***“false brethren.”*** We know from this statement two things. First while these people claimed to be brothers in Christ, they denied the gospel of grace. They added the works of the Law beginning with circumcision. Second, they sought to spy out the ***“liberty”*** Paul and Barnabas enjoyed in Christ. The liberty was to not having to keep the ceremonial law to be a Christian.

C. The stakes here were very high. The purity of the Gospel hung in the balance. Paul refused to compromise.

“to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, [in order] that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”

D. We have this same Gospel today because God raised up a whole host of believers who refused to compromise and stand on the purity of the Gospel.

III. The Apostles Proclaim the Same Gospel I Do (v.6-10)

Galatians 2:6-10 “But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”

A. Paul now tells us what happened when he presented his Gospel to the Apostles. He begins by underlining he did not do this because he needed their approval.

“But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.”

The fact they were somebodies in Jerusalem did not automatically make them the authority on Paul and his gospel. The Lord Jesus directly called, commissioned, and empowered Paul. So, this was not submitting a doctrinal wrinkle to the authorities.

B. Paul in effect wrote that when we compared notes, we discovered that our Gospels were the same. Peter had been empowered to mainly work with the circumcised (the Jews) and Paul was empowered to reach the Gentiles.

“But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles).”

This was important for the Galatian churches to understand. The Jerusalem Apostles' Gospel did not differ from Paul. They also recognize Paul's apostleship did not differ from Peter's.

C. Strike three for the Judaizers in Galatia was that the Peter, James, and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship.

“And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, [in order] that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”

D. What could Paul's opponents say to this?

1. If they indeed said Paul got his gospel from the Apostles in Jerusalem and screwed it up, that clearly was not so. When Paul finally presented his Gospel to the apostles they and he discovered they preached the same God-given Gospel.
2. If circumcision and becoming a keeper of the law was a part of the Gospel, why did they not demand Titus be circumcised?
3. If the powers that be send these false teachers to the Galatians why did they give the right hand of fellowship to Paul and Barnabas?

What Do we Take Away from This?

1. God cares more about the purity of the Gospel than tolerance in the Church.
2. We must recognize the only reason we are saved is because God supernaturally preserved the Gospel for us. We must protect it and proclaim it to others.

Hymn #402 *The Solid Rock*