

Standing up for the Gospel Truth

Galatians 2:1 Then **fourteen years after** I went up again to **Jerusalem with Barnabas**, and took **Titus** with *me* also. 2 And I went up **by revelation**, and **communicated** unto them that **gospel** which I **preach among the Gentiles**, but **privately** to them which were of **reputation**, lest by any means **I should run, or had run, in vain**. 3 But neither **Titus**, who was with me, being a **Greek**, was **compelled to be circumcised**: 4 And that because of **false brethren unawares** brought in, who came in **privily to spy out our liberty** which we have in **Christ Jesus**, that they might bring us into **bondage**: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that **the truth of the gospel might continue with you**. 6 But of these who **seemed to be somewhat**, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: **God accepteth no man's person**;) for they who **seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me**: 7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the **gospel of the uncircumcision** was committed unto me, as *the gospel of the circumcision* was unto **Peter**; 8 (For **he that wrought effectually in Peter** to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was **mighty in me toward the Gentiles**;) 9 And when **James, Cephas, and John**, who seemed to be pillars, **perceived the grace that was given unto me**, they gave to **me and Barnabas** the right hands of fellowship; that *we should go unto the heathen*, and **they unto the circumcision**. 10 Only *they would* that we should **remember the poor**; the same which I also was forward to do.

- Paul is in a fight, spiritual warfare, to keep us free in the grace of Jesus Christ
- He had gone to Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 15:1-35 and mentioned in today's passage for this very purpose 15:1 And **certain men** which **came down from Judaea** taught the brethren, *and said*, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved**. 2 When therefore **Paul and Barnabas** had **no small dissension and disputation** with them, **they (the church in Antioch)** determined that **Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question**. 4 And when they were **come to Jerusalem**, they were received of the church, and *of the apostles and elders*, and they **declared all things that**

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God had done with them. 5 But there rose up **certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed,** saying, That it was **needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.** 10 Now therefore **why tempt ye God,** to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, **which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?** 11 But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.** 13 And after they had held their peace, **James (probably the lead pastor) answered, saying,** Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: 14 **Simeon (Peter)** hath declared how **God at the first did visit the Gentiles,** to **take out of them a people for his name.** 15 And to this **agree the words of the prophets; (what was happening was already in the Bible)** as **it is written,** 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That **the residue of men might seek after the Lord,** and **all the Gentiles,** upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. 19 Wherefore my sentence is, that **we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:** 22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to **send chosen men** of their own company to **Antioch** with Paul and Barnabas; *namely,* **Judas surnamed Barsabas,** and **Silas, chief men (leaders) among the brethren:** 23 And they **wrote letters by them** after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: 24 Forasmuch as **we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:** 25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to **send chosen men** unto you with our **beloved Barnabas and Paul,** 26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, **who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.** 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; 29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep

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yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. 30 So when they were dismissed, **they came to Antioch:** and when they had gathered the multitude together, **they delivered the epistle:** 31 *Which* when **they had read, they rejoiced** for the consolation. 32 And **Judas and Silas,** being **prophets** also themselves, **exhorted** the brethren with many words, and **confirmed** *them*. 33 And after they had tarried *there* a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles. 34 Notwithstanding **it pleased Silas to abide there still. (Silas will later travel and work with Paul)** 35 **Paul** also and **Barnabas** continued in **Antioch, teaching and preaching the word** of the Lord, with many others also.

- Without Paul's standing strong and fighting the gospel would have been corrupted to be a mixture of Law and grace
- Paul fights to keep the gospel free of legalism
- Satan will also try to confuse the truth by planting believable lies
- Paul warns the Ephesian elders to be watchful Acts 20:28 **Take heed** therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers,** to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know this, that **after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in** among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also of your own selves shall men arise, **speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to **warn every one night and day with tears.**
- Paul warned Timothy that there would be people bringing in false doctrine I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall **depart from the faith,** giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats,** which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

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1. Paul, Barnabas, and Titus go up to Jerusalem 2:1 Then **fourteen years after** I went up again to **Jerusalem with Barnabas**, and took **Titus** with *me* also.
 - a. They go up because the Lord leads them to do so 2 And I went up **by revelation**, and **communicated** unto them that **gospel** which I **preach among the Gentiles**, but **privately** to them which were of **reputation**, lest by any means **I should run, or had run, in vain**.
 - b. The church was in agreement that they should go up
Acts 15:2 When therefore **Paul and Barnabas** had **no small dissension and disputation** with them, **they** determined that **Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question**.
 - c. Paul went to show them what he was preaching 2 And I went up **by revelation**, and **communicated** unto them that **gospel** which I **preach among the Gentiles**, but **privately** to them which were of **reputation**, lest by any means **I should run, or had run, in vain**.
 - i. Don't forget that there are men saying that Peter, James and John sent them
 - ii. Paul meets with them privately, no need for a big fight in front of others
 - i. They all agree that they believe the same gospel and that they didn't send the false brothers
2. Meet the witnesses in this trial
 - a. Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles.
 - b. Barnabas is one of Paul's closest friends and coworkers. He is highly respected in Jerusalem and among the apostles
 - i. Barnabas is just a nickname because his name was originally Joses Acts 4:**36** And **Joses**, who by the apostles was surnamed **Barnabas**, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, **37** Having land, sold *it*, and **brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet**.

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- ii. Barnabas opened the door for Paul to get into the church the first time Acts 9:26
And when **Saul** was come to Jerusalem, he **assayed to join himself to the disciples:** but they were all **afraid of him,** and **believed not** that he was a **disciple. 27** But **Barnabas took him,** and **brought *him* to the apostles,** and **declared** unto them how he had **seen the Lord in the way,** and that he had spoken to him, and how **he had preached boldly at Damascus** in the name of Jesus. **28** And he was with them **coming in and going out at Jerusalem.**
- iii. Barnabas, the encourager, goes to Antioch to encourage them in their faith Acts 11:19
Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and **Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20** And **some of them** were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were **come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21** And the **hand of the Lord was with them:** and a **great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. 22** Then **tidings** of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in **Jerusalem:** and they sent forth **Barnabas,** that he should go as far as **Antioch. 23** Who, when he came, and had **seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all,** that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. **24** For he was a **good man,** and **full of the Holy Ghost and of faith:** and much people was **added unto the Lord.**
- iv. Barnabas got Paul involved in the work at Antioch
Acts 11:25 Then departed **Barnabas to Tarsus,** for to **seek Saul: 26** And when he had found him, **he brought him unto Antioch.** And it came to pass, that **a whole year** they assembled themselves **with the church,** and **taught much people.** And the **disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**
- v. It was Paul and Barnabas that were sent out as the first missionaries from Antioch
Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at **Antioch** certain prophets and teachers; as **Barnabas,** and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and **Saul. 2** As

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they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul** for the work whereunto **I have called them. 3** And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, **they sent them away.**

- vi. Barnabas encouraged John Mark when he dropped out of the ministry Acts 13:13
- vii. Barnabas was an encourager, a courageous minister of the gospel, a great coworker, a man willing to cross racial and cultural divides to carry the gospel
- a. Titus was a gentile believer. Titus 1:4 To **Titus, mine own son after the common faith:** Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.
 - i. He was a result of the ministry among the gentile pagans
 - ii. Paul is taking him to Jerusalem like an exhibit of the grace of God
 - iii. God had greatly used Titus. He wasn't circumcised but the grace of God was evident in his life
 - iv. Titus helped Paul in places of great need Titus 1:5 For **this cause left I thee in Crete,** that thou shouldest **set in order the things that are wanting,** and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:
 - v. The leaders in Jerusalem would see that God's work in Titus life was nothing less than He had done in their own lives
 - vi. They did not require Titus to be circumcised 3 But neither **Titus,** who was with me, being a **Greek,** was **compelled to be circumcised:**
- b. False brethren
 - i. These men were not true believers
 - ii. They were there to rob the believers of their liberty in Christ Galatians 2:4 And that because of **false brethren unawares** brought in, who came in **privily to spy out our liberty** which we have in **Christ Jesus,** that they might bring us into **bondage:**
 - iii. They still believed in keeping the law
- c. The pillars of the church in Jerusalem, Peter, James, and John

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- i. Peter was the apostle given the keys of the kingdom Matthew 16:**18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven:** and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
 - 1. He opened the door of faith to the Jews on the day of Pentecost Acts 2
 - 2. The Samaritans Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them **Peter and John: 15** Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **17** Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
 - 3. The Gentiles Acts 10:**44** While **Peter** yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. **45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
- i. John, you obviously know, one of the closest three apostles
 - 1. Writes great portions of Scripture, John, Revelation, and three letters
 - 2. The beloved apostle
- ii. James here is the brother of Jesus, not the apostle
 - 1. Remember that the apostle James is already dead
Acts 12:1 Now about that time **Herod** the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church. **2** And **he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**
 - 1. The half brother of Jesus Matthew 13:55 Is not this the **carpenter's son?** is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, **James,** and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? **56** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things? Mark 6:3 Is not this **the carpenter, the son of Mary,** the

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brother of **James**, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

2. He had not believed in Jesus during His earthly ministry John 7:5 For **neither did his brethren believe in him.**
3. He was a leader in the early church Acts 15, 21:18 And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.
4. He wrote the book of James

1. The purpose of the meeting was spiritual liberty and freedom from bondage 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that **the truth of the gospel might continue with you.**
 - a. Those who had come into the ministry weren't saved Galatians 2:4 And that because of **false brethren unawares** brought in, who came in **privily to spy out our liberty** which we have in **Christ Jesus**, that they might bring us into **bondage:**
 - i. They were there to see what Paul was teaching
 - ii. They wanted to change the message
 - iii. They wanted to bring them under law
 - b. Before salvation that had already lived in fear and bondage to physical things even as pagans 4:3 Even so we, when we were **children**, were in **bondage under the elements of the world:**
 - c. They had heard the truth, known God and so Paul wants to know why they would go back to living on their own ability again 9 But now, after that ye have **known God**, or rather are **known of God**, how **turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements**, whereunto ye desire again to be in **bondage?**
 - d. Paul calls on them to stand fast in their liberty 5:1 **Stand fast** therefore in the **liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not **entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**

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2. They agreed on the gospel 6 But of these who **seemed to be somewhat**, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: **God accepteth no man's person:**) for they who **seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:**
 - a. The big shots didn't teach Paul anything new
 - b. Actually they already agreed with him
 - c. This meeting would help put the false brethren in their place
 - d. They agreed that Paul would continue leading the ministry to reach the Gentiles 7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the **gospel of the uncircumcision** was committed unto me, as *the **gospel of the circumcision*** was unto **Peter**; 8 (For **he** that **wrought effectually in Peter** to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was **mighty in me toward the Gentiles:**)
 - e. The pillars of the church agreed that Paul should continue his ministry and they would continue theirs 9 And when **James, Cephas, and John**, who seemed to be pillars, **perceived the grace that was given unto me**, they gave to **me and Barnabas** the right hands of fellowship; that we *should **go unto the heathen***, and **they unto the circumcision.**
 - f. They simply asked Paul to remember the poor which he always liked doing 10 Only *they would* that we should **remember the poor**; the same which I also was forward to do.
3. The point of this entire message is to keep the gospel pure
 - a. The temptation is always to add something to the gospel
 - b. Men love rules to get saved, to stay saved, to look saved
 - c. Paul was in a very violent and active fight to keep the gospel pure
 - d. People will always try to get you to put emphasis on you and what you are doing to be saved, stay saved or look saved
 - e. He loves you. Do not turn back to the things that the pagans did nor the Jews
 - f. Do not allow beggarly elements of the world to be what makes or keeps you saved
 - i. Keeping the law

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- ii. Not eating certain foods
 - iii. Dressing or acting a certain way
 - iv. Rubbing the Buddha's belly
 - v. Kissing the cows that walk the streets
 - vi. Crossing yourself when you pass a church or cemetery
 - vii. Any superstition
- g. If you in any way believe that you have somehow earned your salvation then today turn from weak and beggarly elements to trust what Jesus did on the cross

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