

Galatians 2

Galatians 2.1-10

V 1 – When was Paul’s next visit to Jerusalem? Fourteen years later

-Who went with Paul back to Jerusalem? Barnabas and Titus

V 2 – Why did Paul return? A revelation from Jesus

-What did Paul say at Jerusalem? Explained the gospel he had been preaching to the Gentiles

-Remember when Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and baptized them – he had to explain himself at Jerusalem

-Private or public meeting first? Private

-Why? Always wise

-Paul didn’t want all of his work ruined because of any stubborn people at the church in Jerusalem

V 3 – Titus was not forced to be circumcised

-Meaning? Old Law was no longer binding

V 4 – But what happened at Jerusalem? False teachers (holding to the Old Law) tried to make circumcision binding

-They tried to bring the first century Christians into “bondage”

-It is the same today with people who say we can’t eat in the building, can’t eat certain foods, etc.

-People who claim to be Christians often try to bind things on other Christians which the Bible does not bind

V 5 – What was Paul’s reaction to them? “We didn’t give in to them even an hour”

V 6 – Who attacked Paul? “Those of high reputation”

-In other words, the ones who had a lot of fame and power, the big shots

-Did they impress Paul? No, God does not show partiality

V 7 –How did Paul’s “assignment” compare with Peter’s? Paul = to the Gentiles, Peter = to the Jews

V 8 – Peter and Paul had both worked with God’s blessings

V 9 – Who supported Paul? James, Peter, John, Barnabas

-Interesting: right hand of fellowship

-Some people think that we are required to have a "holy kiss" in greeting fellow Christians, but a handshake will work just as well

V 10 – One request of these brethren? To remember the poor

-Paul had been collecting money for the poor in Jerusalem

Galatians 2.11-21

V 11 – Cephas = Peter

- How did Paul treat Peter?** Opposed him to his face
- Why?** He stood condemned

V 12 – **How did he used to behave?** He ate with the Gentiles

- But when the Jews arrived?** He ate only with them
- Why?** He was afraid to offend the Jews (he feared them)

V 13– **How bad did it get?** All Jews and even Barnabas were led astray (notice the influence of Peter)

V 14– Peter had spent time in Antioch and had adopted customs of Gentiles

- Reasoning of Paul?** How could Peter now compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? It doesn't make sense

V 15 – Paul: This is not “sour grapes” – Paul was a Jew, just as Peter was (in other words, Paul did have any selfish motives)

V 16 – **But?** Being a Jew meant nothing to God now

- Explain v 16?** It is impossible to keep the Old Law perfectly

V 17 – If it is bad to be just a Christian (and not a Jew), then Christ has produced sin (in other words, an argument against Jewish racism)

V 18 – **What had Paul once destroyed?** His faith to the Old Testament (and Jewish traditions, etc.)

V 19 – **What had Paul done to the Old Law?** He had died to it

V 20–A beautiful verse

- Paul: We are new people in Christ (no longer Jews and Gentiles)
- Notice emphasis on “me” in v 20 – Salvation was very personal for Paul

V 21– Paul: To show prejudice against Gentile Christians is to destroy the Christian faith

Lessons from this chapter:

- Even great Christian people (such as Peter and Barnabas) can be led astray
- Christians are not to be prejudiced (no racial jokes or slang terms)

Revised 2013-01-22