

PAUL POINTS OUT PETER'S PRETENSE

GALATIANS 2

The Apostle did not put a chapter break here between chapter one and two. The chapters and verses designations were added in the thirteenth century for bible students. SO... Chapter two continues his conversation about HOW he received the Gospel directly from Jesus Christ and NOT from other men.

He was saying in chapter one:

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now *concerning* the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once *tried to* destroy." 24 And they glorified God in me.

HE CONTINUES...

Galatians 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with *me*.

- In Acts 9 we read that Barnabas decided to partner with Paul and help him – Nobody else wanted to at that time.
- In Acts 11, Barnabas again goes searching for Paul and they begin ministering together.
- In Acts 13 – Paul and Barnabas are sent out by the Jerusalem Church as missionaries to the Gentiles.
- But... It was years and years **(10-17)** after his conversion that Paul became this evangelist to the Gentiles.
 - What was he doing for all of those years? Working... Making tents... Reading OR Rereading the scriptures... Praying... Listening to the Lord... And... Suffering too.
 - It was during these years that he lost his job with the Temple.

He lost his family too... He lost his friends, influence, reputation, and his identity. HE IS STARTING OVER AS AN MISSIONARY...

PAUL HEARS THE CALL

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

- **NLT** - I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing.
- **THE ISSUE** – Some of the Church Leaders in Jerusalem had first taught that in order to be a Christian, you had to be circumcised like a Jew. Paul disagreed with that teaching and all of the teaching that said only Jews could be saved.
- **SO...** He is checking in with “Head Quarters” to make sure that they were all on the same page with this.
- He did this “Privately” and quietly in order to NOT cause a scandal.

HOW DID IT GO?

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

- **TITUS!** What a great leader he would become. Paul will write a short but important letter to him which we nickname: “The Christian Conduct Manual.”
- **Why is this Important?** Titus was accepted by the Early Church Leaders just as he was – Greek, young, and available!
- **YOUNG PEOPLE LISTEN** – The best ability is availability! Be available for God like Titus!

SPIES WITH LIES

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

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

- **Chuck Smith** says that we ALL owe Paul a huge debt of gratitude that he would so early on in the history of the first Church **STAND UP** against the attempts to make Christianity a Jewish organization rather than a Gospel of grace **for all** – Both Jews AND Gentiles.

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.

- **NLT** - (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favorites.)
- **V6 CEV** - Some of them were supposed to be important leaders, but I didn't care who they were. God doesn't have any favorites! None of these so-called special leaders added anything to my message.
- I have a friend who raised three kids. He used to whisper in each of their ears at night and tell them, "You're my favorite, don't tell the others."
- Who in this room is God's favorite? EVERY HAND SHOULD BE UP!

7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised **GENTILES** 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),

- Peter was sent to the Jews to win them to Christ... Paul compliments him here.
- Paul was sent to us Gentiles... Paul compliments the Lord for his own ministry...

- **SO WE MUST ASK...**

- Who has God sent **ME** to? Who has He sent **YOU** to? THAT is a good prayer for each of us to ask Him, right? Must we each minister exactly the same way? NOPE! I love that CCSV has so much diversity. We celebrate that knowing that the whole world is our target people...

9 and when James, Cephas, **(AKA Peter)** 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.

- This is an awesome example of unity in different callings...
- This only works in Christian love. We will soon see that when love is set aside for pride and fear – This unity is damaged.
- What is most important in light of diversity? **V 10...**

10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, **(IE, the Church at Jerusalem)** the very thing which I also was eager to do.

PAUL QUESTIONS PETER'S BEHAVIOR

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, **(IE, Jews from Jerusalem who taught Jewish customs were necessary for salvation)** he (Peter) would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, **fearing** those who were of the circumcision.

- Peter was trying to live two separate lives: The good Jewish boy and the liberated Christian believer... The problem was that he ended up offending both groups by pretending.
- Beloved, We need to be real and NOT try to pretend that we are more worthy because of the grace that God gifted us with, RIGHT?
- Here is a modern day example – We have a local Calvary Chapel Pastor who was contacted by a Mormon Leader who needed some help but didn't feel like he could ask his other Mormon friends. The CC Pastor helped him out. Later, the CC Pastor was asked a second time for help. He dug deep and helped out again. AS A RESULT – He and this Mormon

Leader have become friends AND... The CC Pastor has been asked to actually come and speak to some of the Mormon Leaders. He doesn't hold back either. Because of his kindness, he is being able to challenge their religion and preach the simple gospel to a group of people that few Evangelicals have been able to reach... WHAT IF he had refused to help the first time?

- I know this is a difficult situation – It has many dangers and potential problems but, this is what the early Church Leaders were dealing with. Some of the Gentile converts were “Savages” in the eyes of many of the converted Jews.
 - Have you ever been at a gathering where somebody was double-dipping in the dip sauces? THAT was the Gentiles.
 - SO... Because Peter hypocritically offended the Gentiles...

13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the **truth of the gospel, (That we are the same in God's eyes)** I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

- NLT - When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions? **OUCH!**"

CS28

What was the problem with Peter's behavior? Wiersbe names 5 things:

1. It endangered the unity of the Church.
2. It endangers the teaching of Justification by faith, NOT works.
3. It endangers freedom from the Law.
4. It endangered the Gospel itself.
5. It endangered the grace of God.

Now you have the outline for next Sunday. Until then, **be available!**