

The Epistle To The Galatians¹

PAUL'S FAITHFULNESS TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL (Gal.2:1-14)

1. Paul's Faithfulness
 - a. Paul was faithful, honest, frank and bold, but a spirit of meekness (**Gal.6:1**)
 - b. Paul was restoring the saints in Galatia with bold speaking but with meekness
 - c. However, Paul was not a politician (**2:4, 11-14; 3:1**)
 - (1) Though perplexed by their situation, Paul did not play politics (**4:20**)
 - (2) Politics is a form of lying and deceit whose origin is Satan (**John 8:44**)
2. Going Up to Jerusalem According to Revelation (**Gal.2:1-2**)
 - a. After his initial visit to Jerusalem he did not return for another fourteen years (**Acts 15**)
 - b. A number of churches were raised up by Paul in Gentile world without Christians from Jerusalem and Judea
 - c. In **Gal.1:18**, Paul visited to become acquainted, but in **2:1-2**, he went according to revelation, without organization, system or traditional concepts
 - d. As a Jew, he could have argued that he should go to Jerusalem, but he was restricted. Paul moved according to the Lord's guidance and timing
 - e. The Judaizers were causing great problems in the churches, so Paul went up to Jerusalem, according to revelation to deal with the source of the problem
 - f. Paul did not go the Jerusalem to get revelation, he went there **with** revelation. He did not go anywhere or take action in a light way.
3. Privately Laying the Gospel He Preached Before Those of Reputation (**Acts 15, Gal.2:2**)
 - a. Paul did not go up to Jerusalem with great fanfare; to promote his position to gain supporters before the small council
 - b. This demonstrates that Paul was one who lived a restricted life
 - c. It also shows his wisdom in not stirring up things in the flesh
4. Not Even Titus Compelled to Be Circumcised (**2:3**)
 - a. Paul stood for the truth and against political compromise
 - b. Since in Christ circumcision is over, to circumcise a believer would cause the truth to be blurred
 - c. Judaism is built on three pillars ordained by God: circumcision, the Sabbath and the holy diet; which are shadows of things to come. (**Gen,17:9-14, Exo.20:8-11, Lev.11; Col.2:16-17**)
 - (1) Circumcision is a shadow of Christ's crucifixion in putting off the flesh as signified by baptism (**Col.2:11**)
 - (2) The Sabbath is a type of Christ as His people's rest (**Matt.11:28-30**)
 - (3) The holy diet symbolized the distinction between persons called clean and unclean (**Acts 10:11-16, 34-35**)
 - d. These three pillars were counted as nothing, annulled and abolished in the N.T.
 - (1) The Sabbath abolished in the Lord's ministry (**Matt.12:1-12**)

¹ Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, *Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984*. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

- (2) The Holy Diet was annulled by the Holy Spirit (**Acts 10:9-20**)
 - (3) Circumcision was counted as nothing by Paul's ministry (**Gal. 5:6, 6:15**)
- e. Even the law, the base of Judaism, has been terminated and replaced by Christ (**Rom. 10:4, Gal. 2:16**)
- 5. Not Yielding in Subjection to the False Brothers and Keeping the Truth of the Gospel (**2:4-5**)
 - a. The false brothers are the Judaizers who pervert the gospel
 - b. The freedom here refers to freedom from the bondage (or slavery) of the law
 - c. Believers are free to enjoy Christ and enjoy liberation from the bondage of the law with all its requirements
 - d. To maintain this freedom and keep the truth of the gospel, Paul refused to have Titus circumcised
- 6. Receiving Nothing from Those of Reputation (**2:6**)
 - a. Paul did not receive anything from Peter, John, or James because they had nothing to teach Paul
 - b. In Jerusalem there was a lack of proper atmosphere to receive what Paul had.
 - c. Paul knew the Lord in a spiritual way. (**2Cor. 5:16**)
- 7. Having been Entrusted with the Gospel of the Uncircumcision Under God's Operation (**Gal. 2:7-8**)
 - a. Clearly Paul's commission was for the gentiles, about which he was frank, honest, faithful & bold, but not proud
 - b. Paul realized that his ministry was the result of God's operation
- 8. James, Cephas (Peter) and John Recognize Paul's Commission (**2:9-10**)
 - a. The reputed pillars of the church, James, Cephas and John, offered Paul the right hand of fellowship.
 - b. Now James (the brother of the Lord-**1:19**) was first; he came to the forefront to take the lead among the apostles. This is also verified by **2:12**, where Paul said some came from James, i.e., the church in Jerusalem. Thus, Paul was confirming that James was first.
 - c. Peter's weakness in not holding the truth of the gospel led to his spiritual decline and authority
 - d. Leadership in the church is not organizational and perpetual, but it is spiritual and fluctuates according to the spiritual condition of the leading ones.
- 9. Opposing Peter to His Face (**2:11-14**)
 - a. Peter came to Antioch and played politics; eating with uncircumcised, but when those of James came, shrinking back
 - b. He who had been disciplined by the Lord and saw the vision abolishing the Levitical diet (**Acts 10**) denied the gospel
 - c. His behavior, a sign of weakness, caused Barnabas & other Jewish believers to be hypocrites and deny the truth of the gospel
 - d. This behavior sent a signal to the gentile believers that they should live like Jews.
 - e. This was a strong damage to the new gentile believers, hurting their consciences and affecting the oneness of the church