

## Gal 03 – One Gospel For All - Gal 2:1-10

In the parable of the wheat & tares in **Mat 13** – Jesus makes it clear - the false will always grow with the real

in **Acts 20:30** - Paul warned the Ephesians– *Take heed, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking [misleading] things, to draw away the disciples after themselves*

Today we find our selves – still in the midst of Paul’s “strong defense” against those who had risen up within the church (Judaizers) –

Who were working so hard to discredit Paul – & to the Gospel of Grace he was sent to preach

We’ll finish Paul’s Defense of himself today - in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of **Gal Ch 2** - where Paul is going to re-count his famous trip to the “Jerusalem Council” – detailed in **Acts 15**

In fact – we’ll be flipping back & forth a lot today (Gal 2 – Acts 15)

& as we go thru our text today - we’ll to see more proof – that Paul’s message is identical to the other Apostles . . .

We’ll see more proof - that there is truly only **One Gospel – For All**

### **Let’s pray for the message**

So 1st wk – at the end of **Ch 1** – after Paul’s 3 yrs in the desert – he went briefly to Jerusalem (*but had no real acceptance*) – & then he headed back to the region of Syria & Cilicia . .

### **& we pick up in Gal 2:1**

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

So it’s been at least 11 yrs (from Ch 1 – to Ch 2) - & it is likely that during this time Paul made his 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (see that in **Acts 13-14**)

& that missionary trip ends in **Acts 14** -  
w/ Paul being stoned & left for dead in the region of Galatia,  
by the Jews who had incited the people of Lystra -

But God had already used Paul to start a miraculous work in that region -  
& news had gotten back to the Judaizers in Jerusalem . . .

we need to go to **Acts 15:1** – to pick up the events . . .

*1 And certain men came down from Judea [actually north – to Antioch] and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”*

These are professing Christian/Jews – rising up within the church in Jerusalem  
these . . . are the Judaizers . . .

### **Acts 15:2**

*2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, [up in Antioch] they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.*

& so begins the great Jerusalem Council –  
where Paul & the other Apostles finally all come together –  
after Paul had been in training w/ Christ - & ministry – for 14 yrs

So – we go back again **Gal 2:1-2**

*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.*

**Barnabas** was Paul’s close *friend* & his ministry *partner* - (tho there was a “sharp contention” coming between these two over “John Mark”)

& **Titus** was an uncircumcised Gentile convert –  
a product of the very Gospel of Grace the Judaizers were attacking –  
& he was to become a missionary pastor under Paul

So Paul goes (w/ Barnabas & Titus) to face the council of Apostles at Jerusalem where the Judaizers were hoping Paul w'd get thrown out of the church for his radical teaching of Salvation by Grace alone

& notice – in **v.2** – it says he went “By Revelation” meaning God had revealed to him that this was the **right time** & the **right place** – to have this mtg

It's interesting - God let this conflict brew at least 11 yrs or so – before having Paul deal w/ it directly . . .

& I'm sure there were many people (altho not God) – who felt this issue should've been dealt with much, much sooner

But God's timing is always perfect - & it is very seldom our timing

& notice v.2 also says Paul 1<sup>st</sup> met “**privately**” w/ those who were of reputation “lest by any means he might run, or had run, in vain”

The 1<sup>st</sup> thing Paul did was meet privately w/ the Apostles . . . just to make 100% sure – they were all on the same page (*they were*)

### so now we go back to **Acts 15:3-5**

*3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they [Paul, Barnabas, Titus] passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.*

*4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.*

*5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”*

Now they were in the thick of it – Paul was in the middle of Jerusalem – & in the middle of the Judaizers . . .

& they were trying to force upon Paul - their false gospel, of adding works of the law - to the Gospel of Grace . . .

Now – if we'll flip back to **Gal Ch 2** – we'll see Paul's commentary on this critical confrontation with the Judaizers . . .

## **Gal 2:3**

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

So now – Titus becomes kind of a “test case” – or “Living Proof” that the Judaizers were unsuccessful in adding the bondage of the law to the gospel of grace . . .

If Titus could be approved by the Apostles right in Jerusalem – right in the face of the Judaizers . . .

then he would be “Living Proof” - to the believers in Galatia of the Divine Gospel **BY** Grace alone **THRU** Faith alone (w/ no works added)

**& then in Gal 2:4 Paul explains how this happened**

*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.*

Paul calls the Judaizers “**False Brethren**” secretly brought in, to spy out this new “**Liberty**” in Christ – that they might bring us into “**Bondage**”

To give you an idea of how serious this issue really was – let me read you a quote from **John MacArthur** re: this vs . . .

**John MacArthur**: “Paul refers to those who had snuck in to spy out the liberty of true believers in terms that suggest enemies entering a camp by stealth with the objective of sabotage. Those men may not even have been honest Judaizers. Some scholars believe they were planted in the churches by Pharisees or priests in order to corrupt this threat to traditional Judaism. In any case, Satan, as always, was the primary instigator of the **subterfuge**. The Judaizers were first of all the devil’s agents, whatever their human associations and loyalties.

**Websters** says **SUBTERFUGE** is: adopting a deceitful scheme, or lie, in order to escape guilt or **to gain an end**

& **MacArthur** notes; *Satan is always the primary instigator of subterfuge*

& that's why **V.5** is such a strong & forceful statement from Paul . . .

(again) **Gal 2:5**

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

We must not be Ignorant – or Naïve – of the enemy's schemes (subterfuge) that he is constantly using to sabotage the work of God

Now – let's back over to **Acts 15** – & we'll hear Peter address the Judaizers

**Acts 15:6-11** (at the Jerusalem Council)

*6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.*

*7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. [Acts 10]*

*8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,*

*9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

*10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? [works & traditions]*

*11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”*

This is Peter – the Leader of the Jerusalem church –

saying “**One Gospel For All**” – Jews or Gentiles – Slaves or Free . . .

Educated in Religion or Clueless in all Traditions – **One Gospel For All** –

& **V.11** says that One Gospel comes thru the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ -

& **by it, & by it alone** – we shall **all** be saved in the same manner . . .

& there is **NOTHING** that can be added to such an Amazing Grace - **PERIOD**

**Cont'g in Acts 15:12**

## **Acts 15:12**

*12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.*

So – after 14 yrs – The message given to Paul for the Gentiles –  
(that salvation is BY Grace alone – THRU Faith alone)

**is finally** confirmed by the Jerusalem Apostles

& **THIS** is the event that Paul is referring to – back in **Gal Ch 2**

& he does it - in order to give the churches in Galatia the strength to stand against the same false teaching that Paul stood against in Jerusalem

So that they can (as we'll read later in **Gal 5:1**) - ***Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and to not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage***

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So now – cont'g in **Gal 2** - Paul's going to explain to the Galatians why what happened at the "Council in Jerusalem" is so important in helping them recognize (& stand against) the Judaizers

## **Paul says in Gal 2:6**

*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.*

**Jon Courson** says Paul is the "***Apostle of Candor***" –  
& that candor really shows here . . .

when Paul says "**But from those who seemed to be something**" –  
he's obviously referring to the **Apostles in Jerusalem** . . .

but then – between the dashes (parenthesis) –  
Paul seems to throw a little barb at those very Apostles . . .

**"whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man"**

**THAT** – is what we would call “**Candor**” . . .

But Paul wasn't *belittling* the Jerusalem Apostles . . .

He's just trying to tell it like it is

**I think Paul is making two things clear here;**

**#1)** God truly shows No Partiality

*a certain calling from God doesn't make one person better than any other person . . .*

Altho Paul clearly teaches respect for Positions of Leadership

it doesn't mean 1 person is better than another . . .

***(the respect is for the position)***

**#2)** I think Paul is trying to make it clear –

he was on the same level as the other Apostles –

he was talking to his leadership “peers” (on the same level)

in any case – Paul **closes V.6** by saying;

***“for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me”***

The Jerusalem Apostles did not correct (or add) anything to the message Paul was teaching to the Gentiles

For 11 yrs – Paul had brought the Gospel of Grace to the Gentiles,

& when he finally had it confirmed by the Jerusalem Apostles –

they didn't add or change one thing . . .

that should give the churches in Galatia (& us) the confidence to know

the **Gospel of Divine Grace thru Faith alone** – is the **One True Gospel**

So – Paul says the Jerusalem Apostles added nothing to him . . .

**& then he says in Gal 2:7-8:**

7 *But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as [or - just 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),*

Paul's making it clear – God worked **effectively** (the same way),  
to bring the gospel – to both the Jews & the Gentiles

The word “**as**” (“*just as*”) – means “*in the same way*”  
“in the same way” God was using **Peter** to bring the gospel to the **Jews**,  
God was using **Paul** to bring the gospel to the **Gentiles**

& that **should** refute once & for all – the Judaizer's slander of Paul . . .  
& the slander of his message of Salvation by Grace Alone

**John Phillips** says if you will go thru Acts –  
& compare the **miraculous** things Peter did among the **Jews** –  
w/ the **miraculous** things Paul did among the **Gentiles** –  
you'll find that they are *almost identical*

Very strong evidence – God was bringing **One Gospel For ALL**

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& so after this “Council in Jerusalem” – there was never  
a question or doubt (*from the Apostles*) about Paul or his message . . .

& in **2Pet 3** - Peter himself ranks Paul's writings with all the other scripture

So – Paul has made it clear – that both he (& his message) –  
have come from God, & God alone . . .

& in **V.9** – Paul tries to “**Nail the Lid**” on the slander & maligning . . .



## **Gal 2:9**

*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.*

**So here is that One Gospel For All decision –**

James, Peter, & John say “we’ll take the Gospel of Grace to the Jews”  
& to Paul they say “you & Barnabas take it to the Gentiles”

So Paul is not only in **Doctrinal Harmony** w/ the other Apostles  
but he is in **Personal Harmony** (fellowship) w/ them . . .

At that time – to clasp the Right hand of a man was a **solemn vow**  
of friendship, fellowship, partnership – it was a very big deal

& clearly – this Council at Jerusalem had put Paul & Peter’s Apostolic calling  
on equal levels – Peter to the Jews, & Paul to the Gentiles . . .

Paul - previously known as a Hebrew of Hebrews - Pharisee of the Pharisee’s  
– was called by God . . . to the **Gentiles**

& Peter - previously a simple fisherman – the son of a simple fisherman –  
raised on the shores of the “Galilee of the Gentiles” . . .  
was called by God . . . to the highly educated & sophisticated **Jews**

I believe this is a clear sign of the sovereignty of God –  
& maybe – we can see in it - a hint of how God works . . .

I wonder if Paul ever thought about why he wasn’t sent to the Jews . . .

After all – he had expansive knowledge of the Jewish ways -  
& the Jews would certainly respect his past . . .

& yet God sent him as far away from the Jewish world as possible

& I wonder if Peter ever thought about why he wasn’t sent to the Gentiles –

After all – he had grown up w/ them on the shores of the Galilee –  
& he certainly understood their simple ways . . .

& yet God set him in the heart of Jerusalem – to minister to the Jews

It seems clear that God's ways are not man's ways –  
that His thoughts are far above our thoughts . . .

& quite probably - if we think we'd be perfect for God to use is some area -  
because that's where we feel the most comfortable . . .

There's a good chance God will send us to the other end of the spectrum –  
to use us in a place where only HE could bring about the victory . . .

where we could never deserve or accept any glory . . .  
because only God could do such an extreme work thru us . . .

& in the multitude of lessons in Paul's Autobiography –  
that is certainly one of them . . .

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### **So – wrapping up this section – Gal 2:10**

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

We might imagine it would've been James who'd end this great time of  
Unified Theology – with one Practical Application . . . remember the poor

but Paul was already a step ahead of them . . . not only was he eager to do it  
but he continued to provide for the poor thru-out his ministry

In fact – there is some indication – that Paul had brought money  
for the poor in Jerusalem – on this very trip

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So today – Paul has made it clear – there is **Only One Gospel** –  
& that One Gospel is for Jews & Gentiles alike – (For All)

It's the gospel Jesus delivered to the original Apostles -  
& it's the Gospel Jesus delivered to Paul

& that *One Gospel For All* –

-- starts w/ God's grace –

-- comes thru the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

-- & becomes ours thru Faith in Christ alone (w/ nothing added)

**“Let's Pray”**