

Galatians 2

Ch1 verse 12. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Defending the Gospel

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

- Barnabas was a respected man seen in Acts 4 and Acts 11
 - He was called the Son of encouragement, and it is said that he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.
 - Acts 4:36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,
- Titus was a gentile who was a convert, he was also well regarded as a man of faith filled with the Holy Spirit, and you can read that in 2 Corinthians, 2,7,8,12, and in the opening chapter of Titus.
 - In verse 4 of chapter 1, Paul calls Titus a true son in our common faith.
- These were respected men that were with him, respected because they were full of the Holy Spirit and walking in faith.
- As we walk in this world today, we need to be sure that we have people around us that are full of the Holy Spirit as will not be full of themselves and are not willing to compromise on the Gospel.
 - This is a key part of the chapter today, do not compromise on Scripture and the Gospel.
 - Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

²And 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. ³Yet not even Titus who *was* with me, being a Greek, was

compelled to be circumcised. 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.

- Going by revelation means God directed, Paul wasn't summoned and he may have not even wanted to go. However, he heard the Lord and was obedient.
- Going to speak and preach to the Gentiles and to those of reputation in private was a sign of Paul's ability to understand how to lead, and how to follow and how to use tact.
- The leaders (those of reputation) they were meeting accepted Titus as a convert; he wasn't circumcised and therefore wasn't keeping with Jewish law. The acceptance shows that the leaders understood and even accepted the Gospel of grace.

This conduct of the apostle may teach all, and especially ministers, how much need they have of prudence, and how careful they should be to use it upon all occasions, as far as is consistent with their faithfulness. Chuck Smith

Paul was defending the Gospel, he was trusting in the Lord, he was standing fast in his faith.

- Paul talks about not yielding/standing fast in his other teachings.

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven...

- Paul's trust in Christ is an example for us. We need to be unwavering in our faith, with our trust in Jesus.
- When we have questions or concerns where are we turning?
- Who are we turning too?
- It says Paul did not yield, that is where we need to be.

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. ⁷ But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised 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), 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. ¹⁰ *They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.*

- Paul was talking about the “famous” leaders” those who seemed to be something. Today we have all kinds of people who think they are somebody and that what they say pulls more weight because of fame, fortune or followers. Paul didn’t care and wasn’t in awe or starstruck by them. Paul met Jesus nobody else could compete with that.
 - Chuck Smith talks about meeting Billy Ghrahm and how down to earth he was, how genuine the conversation was and how real he was, even though Chuck had put him up on pedestal, Chuck was reminded that we are all equal at the foot of the Cross.
 - Paul did not, and we do not need man’s endorsement to spread the Gospel. We just need a heart to serve.

Paul didn’t wait for *someone else* to make him a great Christian. He knew that it came down to a personal relationship between himself and Jesus. This isn’t to say that Paul received nothing from others or that no one else could ever bless him; but his Christian life was not *built* upon what other people did for him. Guzik

- The leaders saw that Paul and the other apostles were on the same page with the same Gospel.
 - Peter’s main ministry was to the Jews and Paul to the gentiles, they both taught the same Gospel, and both would teach to other groups.
- Given the right hand of fellowship.
 - This showed unity and solidarity within the church leaders.
 - Greek word for fellowship is koinonia (koi-no-nia) Chirstian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians.
 - Used 20 times in Scripture, first used in Acts 2

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- This is believers in Christ coming together in love, faith, and encouragement.
 - Christ centered conversation and edification
 - Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing
 - Lifting up, praying for, and praising with each other.
 - Philippians 2 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be *done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- We see 2 different ministries, one for the Jew and one for the Gentiles. There is not one single church that we all must attend. We all have different styles of learning, and we are all at different parts in our walk.
- The name of the church doesn't matter to God, what matters is, is the Word of God being taught, is it pure and unaltered.

Recognizing that we each have our ministries, but they are different. God has called you to the circumcision, great, go for it, Peter. God has called me to the Gentiles, great, I'll go for it. We're dealing with different kinds of people who need different emphasis and message. Chuck Smith

No Return to the Law

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, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 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, 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? ¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

- Peter came to Antioch (Paul's home church)
 - Peter started off great and then he slipped.
 - Peter was acting different towards "certain men" because these men "kept" the law of Moses and they didn't see the Gentiles as real Christians. Peter was compromising to avoid conflict.
 - Peter knew better...
- The meal that all were sharing was a weekly "Love Feast" and when the meal was finished, they would have communion service. This was a meal for everyone, and for some it was the only full meal of the week. Your stomach was full and the fellowship filled your heart, and the communion was ensuring that you were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Now Peter was making it awkward...
- Peter was acting out of fear of man...
- Peter knew better... and how do we know that?
 - Peter called to Joppa to see Gentiles. This is what he said.
 - Acts 11:16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If therefore God gave them the **same gift** as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"¹⁸ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."
- Paul watched what was happening to his brother Barnabas and to the Gentiles, and he got fed up and blew up.
 - Paul went directly at Peter
 - Why... well with the division that Peter was causing, the entire group needed to see the correction. Peter was rebuked and reminded that he came to live as a Gentile being a Jew.
- Paul reminds Peter that it is Faith in Christ and not keeping of the law.

- You cannot be saved by works, only by Faith.
 - James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.
- Finishing up this section, “for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified,” literally means No flesh. Not Jew or Gentile, nobody will be saved by the law.

The law is like a mirror. It shows us our blemishes, but it cannot remove them. Spurgeon

¹⁷ “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

- Paul is teaching us here about faith, faith in Jesus, our acceptance by God thru Jesus.
 - Paul is reiterating the facts, we don't need to keep the law, the law would see us dead because no one can keep it all.
 - Paul says to these “certain men” that by keeping the law you are sinning worse than ever. What Jesus did on the cross for all of us is enough. It is Jesus only and not Jesus plus.
 - We need to be ready just like Paul, when we see our friends or our family backsliding, we need to be ready to rebuke in love, maybe publicly but probably in private.
- 2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, **rebuke**, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - Paul was ready to Preach the word, in and out of season. Out of season here meaning when it was inconvenient or uncomfortable and unpopular.

Notice that it wasn't the **law** that was dead. The law reflects, in its context, the holy heart and character of God. There was nothing wrong with the law. It wasn't the **law** that **died**, but Paul **died to the law**. Guzik

- Paul before he was transformed, was a master of the law, he was a scholar trained by a Pharisee and active in the persecution of Christians. But then, Jesus got him on the road to Damascus and worked him over and broke the hold the law had

over him. He realized that he could never keep all the laws and thus was already dead.

Romans 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶ But now we **have been delivered from the law**, having died to what we were held by, so that we should **serve in the newness of the Spirit** and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

Speak the truth in love, and do not compromise your beliefs. Spurgeon

- Consistent and non-compromising in Faith