

Galatians 2:1–14

Standing Firm in the Gospel of Truth

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Opening Question

What has stood out to you so far in Galatians chapter 1?

- What threats to the gospel have we already seen?

Big Idea

The gospel must be defended and lived out, even when pressured by false teachers, respected leaders, or fear of people.

I. The Gospel Defended in Jerusalem (2:1–6)

- After 14 years, Paul goes to Jerusalem—not for validation, but to protect unity in the church.
- This is Paul’s second recorded visit (Gal. 1:18–19).

Barnabas and Titus

- **Barnabas** – a respected Jewish believer and bridge-builder (Acts 4:36–37; 11:22).
- **Titus** – an uncircumcised Gentile convert; a living test case of gospel freedom.
- Titus was **not required** to be circumcised, showing that salvation does not depend on the Mosaic Law.

False Teachers

- “False brothers” secretly tried to bring believers back under the law.
- False teachers rarely announce themselves.
- They often add to the gospel rather than deny Jesus outright (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Paul refused to compromise even momentarily, so that **the truth of the gospel might be preserved.**

- The Jerusalem leaders “added nothing” to Paul’s message.
- Even apostles are not above the gospel—the gospel is above all.
- God shows no partiality.

II. The Gospel Affirmed by the Apostles (2:7–10)

- Paul was entrusted with ministry to the Gentiles; Peter to the Jews.
- Different callings, same gospel.
- James, Cephas (Peter), and John affirm Paul’s ministry and extend the right hand of fellowship.
- One request: remember the poor.
- Gospel unity expresses itself through practical love and generosity.

III. The Gospel Compromised in Antioch (2:11–14)

- Peter initially fellowshiped freely with Gentile believers.
- When men from James arrived, Peter withdrew out of fear.
- His hypocrisy influenced others—including Barnabas.
- Peter’s issue was not lack of knowledge, but **fear of people**.
- Paul declares they were “**they were not straightforward about the truth of the Gospel.**”

Discussion & Application

1. What might it look like today to stand firm in the truth of the gospel when respected leaders, pastors, authors, or peers act contrary to it?
2. In what ways can believers today affirm the gospel with their words while contradicting it through patterns of behavior or attitudes?

