

Week 3 | Galatians 2:1-14



WEEK 3 — GALATIANS 2:1-14

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ²I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. ³But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—⁵to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸(for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. ¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

QUESTIONS

1. According to verses 1-2, what was Paul zealous to confirm? Based upon what he said about the *singularity* of the gospel in chapter one, why does it make sense for him to go through all this trouble of verifying the truth of the gospel?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 and identify the 3 most *essential* elements of the gospel.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Based upon what we know about the false teaching infecting the church (see Galatians 5:2-4) why is verse 3 relevant to Paul's defense of a “grace alone” gospel?
4. According to v. 4, “false brothers” wanted to bring people back under Jewish law as a prerequisite for “getting right with God.” What does Paul have to say about “Jewishness” and “circumcision” in Romans 2:28-29?



5. In what way does Paul illustrate a zeal for the *truth* of the gospel (v. 5)? How does our zeal for the truth of the gospel serve future generations?
6. Read verses 6-9. How is the gospel a *universal* message for all kinds of people? How does the freedom found in the gospel make it applicable to all cultures and ethnicities?
7. How does Paul's passion for truth (v. 1-9) alongside of the encouragement in verse 10 establish a healthy balance in the Christian life? How can the church swing the pendulum in either way?
8. What fault does Paul find with Peter in verses 11-14?
9. In verse 11, Paul says he "opposed him to his face" in public, but in Matthew 18:15 it says we should do this alone. Why do you think Paul would do his confrontation in front of other people? (hint: think of Peter's position)
10. According to 1 Timothy 5:19-20, how does this relate to the way in which you confront elder/pastors who have disqualified themselves?
11. What does verse 14 say about "their conduct"?
12. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ affect even our conduct with other people?

