

Pastor Dave – Sunday Sun 22nd Sept

Galatians – No Other Gospel.

Galatians 2 Christian Standard Bible Paul Defends His Gospel at Jerusalem

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. ² I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been running, in vain. ³ But not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us. ⁵ But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

⁶ Now from those recognized as important (what they^[a] once were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism^[b])—they added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised, ⁸ since the one at work in Peter for an apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in me for the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas,^[c] and John—those recognized as pillars—acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They asked only that we would remember the poor, which I had made every effort to do.

Freedom from the Law

¹¹ But when Cephas^[d] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.^[e] ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas^[f] in front of everyone, “If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?” ^[g]

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth and not “Gentile sinners,” ¹⁶ and yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ,^[h] even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ^[i] and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will^[j] be justified. ¹⁷ But if we ourselves are also found to be “sinners” while seeking to be justified by Christ, is Christ then a promoter^[k] of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I

rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, ^[1] 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 for nothing.

Understanding the gravity of the issue with the Galatian churches and what they had fallen into.

- The Old Testament taught about the command of circumcision.

Understanding the significance of this for the Jewish people of the day.

Many Jews were not prepared to give up the covenant and old traditions.

- Being so different from what they were taught and raised to believe.

Us as first century Christians are all gentiles.

Paul looking to get them to understand why and the challenge he is taking them through.

Paul now teaching that there is no requirement for circumcision – and the early church now wrestling through this.

They were prepared to worship Christ, but not give up the commands of the Old Testament.

Question – Why is he being so forceful? Why is this such a big deal – Why is Paul spending such a long time on this?

- Continuing to defend the gospel and his apostleship.
- That he saw the resurrected Jesus – qualifying him to be an apostle.

Paul is taking us back to Acts 15 – helping us to understand the flow of evidence.

- The revelation of Jesus that Paul was teaching and sharing the gospel.

Going from a persecutor to a preacher of the gospel.

Point # 1 – The Authenticity of Paul’s Apostleship.

Galatians 2:1-2

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. ² I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been running, in vain.

Paul is looking for reassurance that he was not serving in vain.

He didn’t want to look back and be thinking – I have been doing all this in vain.

We need to grasp the gravity of what is going on.

Question – Do we have the same heartbeat and passion as Paul, that we are not labouring in vain.

Galatians 2:1

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.

Galatians 1:18-24 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas,^[a] and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I didn’t see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰ I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you. ²¹ Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches that are in Christ. ²³ They simply kept hearing, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.^[b]

- Taught directly by Jesus.
- He saw the resurrected Jesus.

Gives an instance of his first visit with two of the apostles.

Then continuing on for 14 years serving Christ.

Place to place to place – preaching the gospel.

Heading back to Jerusalem due to controversy in the church.

- The controversy being – It has to be Jesus and Circumcision.

Paul was like – “I want to be sure I was not running in vain – especially after 14 years.

- He knew he was preaching the gospel rightly.

Philippians 2 -

Paul was very concerned that he wasn't labouring/running in vain.

Acts 15:1 Christian Standard Bible **Dispute in Antioch**

15 Some men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom prescribed by Moses, you cannot be saved.

- You cannot be saved!

Paul was frustrated – righteously angered.

Some teaching that unless you are circumcised and Jesus – you cannot be saved.

Galatians 2: 2

² I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been running, in vain.

Paul – Barnabas – Titus and others.

In Jerusalem – debating – discussing this particular issue – Jesus plus circumcision.

Galatians 2:3

³ But not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

Not even Titus was compelled to be circumcised.

Galatians 2:5

⁵ But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

- Those in Jerusalem saying the same thing.

Contending for the faith – Paul fighting against false teaching.

Question - If they hadn't have fought, what would the gospel look like today?

Galatians 2:6-21

⁶ Now from those recognized as important (what they^[a] once were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism^[b])—they added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised, ⁸ since the one at work in Peter for an apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in me for the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas,^[c] and John—those recognized as pillars—acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They asked only that we would remember the poor, which I had made every effort to do.

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the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,¹¹ 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 for nothing.

Question – What is going on in the Jerusalem council?

- Standing up for the integrity of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul telling the Galatians about these events.

- This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Apostles saying – “No” to Jesus plus circumcision.

We have freedom in Jesus Christ.

- Freedom in that Christ has done everything, and we can't do anything.

We cannot earn our way to God – That is exhausting.

It is freedom when we realise that we cannot earn our way to heaven.

Point # 2 – Paul called out the threat of the false brothers.

Acts 15:22 Christian Standard Bible

The Letter to the Gentile Believers

²² Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided to select men who were among them and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas, called Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men among the brothers.

Supposed to communicate the decision made of the council.

Acts 15:30 Christian Standard Bible

The Outcome of the Jerusalem Letter

³⁰ So they were sent off and went down to Antioch, and after gathering the assembly, they delivered the letter.

Acts 16:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ As they traveled through the towns, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem for the people to observe.

Question – What was the message.

Faith alone, Christ alone, Grace alone

- But living it out.
- A lifestyle exemplified by living it out.

Not added to the gospel – but how you should live.

But still there were those teaching Jesus plus Circumcision.

Galatians 2:4

⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us.

- Calling out the false brothers.
- They were not teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Forceful language used here.

Infiltrated the church – our ranks.

Spy out on the freedom we have in Christ.

- They did not appreciate this.

We cannot keep the law – We need Christ to rescue us from our sin – We need Christ to save us.

Christ has done it for us.

Jesus coming to abolish the law is unbiblical!

Matthew 5:12 Christian Standard Bible

¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus fulfilled all the laws – as Jesus is perfect.

- He fulfilled it all – He is pure and perfect.

Galatians 2:5

⁵ But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

Encouraging them that the gospel they responded to is the truth.

- It is the same for us.

We are to believe the true gospel.

Point # 3 – Paul’s Ministry and Message Confirmed.

Galatians 2:6-7

⁶ Now from those recognized as important (what they^[a] once were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism^[b])—they added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised,

The same gospel going to the Jewish folks as to the Gentiles.

We need to pause here!

Paul says here in Ephesians 2.

Ephesians 2 Christian Standard Bible

From Death to Life

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.^[a] ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us,^[b] ⁵ made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming

ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Unity in Christ

¹¹ So, then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called “the uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised,” which is done in the flesh by human hands. ¹² At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, ¹⁵ he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. ¹⁶ He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.^[a] ¹⁷ He came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

Passage, after passage, after passage that fit together.

The bible containing 40 different authors, all of which knit together.

It is the same Saviour and Lord for us!

Galatians 2:6-8

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Helping them to understand – Peter called by God – empowered by the Holy Spirit – preached the gospel to the Jews and God has done the same thing for Paul to the Gentiles.

This is beautiful – because...

Galatians 2:9

⁹ When James, Cephas,^[c] and John—those recognized as pillars—acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

The word Pillars.

A word that brings people to the Old Testament – But this is a new temple.

Reminding believers of the body of Christ.

This being significant and what he wrote to the Ephesian church.

Ephesians 2:17-22

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Question – Who is he writing to?

He is writing to gentile believers – saying “You know what you who are once far off are now brought near – you are part of the same family of God as Jewish believers”.

- It is not an us and them!
- We are together!

He writes this as he declares to the Galatians – “You know what Peter and some of the others went off to the Jewish people and they shared the gospel with them, and they

trusted Christ as Saviour and they belong to the same family of faith as we do as gentile believers.

Beautiful and unified – as the body of Christ.

Reminding them that his ministry was confirmed that they gave him the right-hand of fellowship. They confirmed that Paul was doing exactly what God called him to do.

It is important that we understand that Jewish people at the time as the gospel was going forward were beginning to understand that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

- That circumcision cannot save them.

It was a picture of what Christ was going to do.

Paul writes this in Colossians Ch2:11

[Colossians 2:11 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[11 You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,](#)

Paul helping them to understand that it was Christ doing the work in the hearts of people.

- No necessity for the physical circumcision.

It was accomplished in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A statement shared to Pastor Dave when they were talking about the issue of Jesus Plus!

He used this phrase and Pastor Dave said he loved it and would like to use it.

Statement shared...

Christ is the Gift of Salvation and Faith is the hands that receive it and unwrap the gift.

- Faith is not a work

Faith is produced by the Holy Spirit – when we hear the gospel message and receive Christ as Saviour.

When we put our trust in Christ, it is the hands that receive and unwrap the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians – Question - Are we as passionate about not running in vain as Paul is?

But to be as useful and effective as God wants us to be, wherever he places us.

Staying true to the gospel message – staying true to living for Christ – stay true to serving him in anyway and everyway that we possibly can.

We don't want to get to the end of our life and say, "*I got off of track here!*"