

Paul and the Apostles
Lesson #13
Galatians 2:1-21

Galatians is a very personal and passionate letter written by Paul to the churches in Galatia which he and Barnabas established on their first missionary journey. The letter began by stating emphatically that there is no other gospel than the "*Gospel of Jesus Christ*" and that Paul did not receive this gospel from man but "*by revelation from Jesus Christ.*"

Paul's second visit to Jerusalem - Galatians 2:1-10

1. But Paul wasn't always as confident as when he was writing this letter. Continuing with his autobiography, Paul said, "*Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem*" (Galatians 2:1a). It is not clear whether Paul is counting fourteen years from his conversion on the Road to Damascus or from his first visit to Jerusalem. Who did Paul say accompanied him on this trip? (Galatians 2:1b)
2. Using Galatians 2:2
 - Why did Paul say that he went to Jerusalem at this time?
 - What did he do while he was there?
 - Whom did he go to?
 - Why did he say he went privately?
3. What did Paul point out about Titus? (Galatians 2:3)
4. Why did Paul say this had become an issue? (Galatians 2:4)
5. Did Paul give in to these "brothers?" (Galatians 2:5)
6. Returning to his private visit with, "*those who seemed to be leaders,*" what did Paul say about those leaders? (Galatians 2:6)

7. What did he say these leaders recognized in him? (Galatians 2:7, 8)
8. Besides those leaders, Paul said that he also visited with James (brother of Jesus), Peter and John. Using Galatians 2:9:
 - What did Paul say these three men were or were “*reputed to be*?”
 - How did these men encourage Paul?
 - What did Paul say these men agreed on?
9. Before Paul left Jerusalem, what did the leaders of the Jerusalem church ask of this missionary team to the Gentiles? (Galatians 2:10a)
10. What was Paul’s response to their request? (Galatians 2:10b)

Peter visits Antioch – Galatians 2:11-21

11. “*When Peter came to Antioch*” (Syria) what did Paul do and why? (Galatians 2:11)
12. Using Galatians 2:12:
 - What did Paul say that Peter “*used to*” do?
 - What caused a change?
 - What did Peter do after that change?
 - Why did Paul say that Peter changed his behavior?

Reflect: Peter had a personal revelation from God before he had gone to the house of the Roman Centurion Cornelius. (Acts 10) Why might Peter have reacted this way in Antioch? (See also Acts 11:1-3)

13. Because of Peter's action, what effect did that have on the others? (Galatians 2:13a)

14. What surprised Paul most about this? (Galatians 2:13b)

15. Using Galatians 2:14:

- What did Paul notice in this behavior?
- To whom did Paul direct his rebuke?
- What was Paul's criticism?

16. Paul began his argument, *"We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners know"* this. What did Paul say they knew? (Galatians 2:16a)

Reflect: Galatians 2:16 is the key verse for this letter. From this verse, what is the real issue at stake?

17. How many times does Paul emphasize *"faith in Christ"* in this verse?

18. Paul continued by answering the implied charge that being justified by faith in Christ and abandoning the law results in Christ's promoting sin. What was Paul's answer to that? (Galatians 2:17)
19. Notice the change in verses 18 – 20 as Paul changed to "I" rather than "we." According to each of the following verses, what had been Paul's personal experience with this life changing faith in Christ?
- Galatians 2:18

 - Galatians 2:19

 - Galatians 2:20a

 - Galatians 2:20b
20. Paul's personal testimony concluded with, "I do not set aside the grace of God." Why was it important for Paul to emphasize God's grace? (Galatians 2:21)

Reflect: on Paul's personal testimony given in verses 18-21. Did anything in those verses stand out to you and if so, why?