



World Christian Fellowship

www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Galatians

Lesson 09 Truth of the Gospel to remain in YOU!

Galatians 2:1-5, *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. 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. ⁴And 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), ⁵to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*

The reason for this book Paul explicitly states in this chapter verse 5!

Apostle Paul affirm his apostleship in the first 2 chapters, in the first chapter what we saw that

- ✓ He was not sent by man,
- ✓ He was not sent through man,

- ✓ He did not learn from man,
- ✓ He was sent by Jesus and God the Father,
- ✓ He got the gospel from the revelation from Jesus Christ,
and
- ✓ His gospel is the truth,
- ✓ Any other gospel if you believe then you are accursed,
- ✓ If anyone preaches any other gospel they are accursed,
and
- ✓ God glorified in his life.

To make this point clearer he spoke at length about his former life, his conversion and his post conversion life to prove it.

V1, *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.*

What made Paul to go to Jerusalem after 14 years?

After met the Lord Jesus Christ in Damascus road, he went to Arabia for three years and then for brief 15 days visit. The apostles feared about his life and sent him back to Tarsus. Barnabas brought him back to Antioch and there he pastored the church.

Galatians 1:21, 23-24,

²¹Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

²³But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."²⁴ And they glorified God in me.

Paul worked with Barnabas and founded the churches in Syria and Cilicia. A church was founded in Antioch, the second church – Antioch in Syria it was about the time of the death of Herod Agrippa around 44 AD. Paul accompanied Barnabas on that relief mission. Acts 11 and 12 details about this. They brought relief to the famine-struck believers in Jerusalem and Judea.

After supplying the relief materials in Jerusalem, he then went right back to Antioch. After this he went on his first missionary journey. Returned from that first missionary journey and remained in Antioch. Finally makes this trip to Jerusalem after fourteen years just briefly to deliver the some goods to help the saints there.

Now this trip takes place after 14 years of his ministry recorded by Luke in Acts 15.

While he was in Jerusalem some men from Jerusalem came there and spread that Paul is not preaching the whole gospel. For Salvation you not only need faith, but you must circumcise and observe all the laws of Moses and traditions otherwise you cannot be saved.

Acts 15:1, *And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."*

So here we find Jews coming to Antioch and demanding that these Gentiles must be circumcised, or else they can't be saved.

Acts 15:2-5,² *Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.*³ *So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.*⁴ *And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.*⁵ *But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."*

The debate takes place!

Acts 15:6, *Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.*

In Antioch, some Judaizers came from there were preaching this false gospel. Paul and Barnabas take them straight on their face and there was a confusion. The church sends Paul and Barnabas with some others down to Jerusalem to help them to sort out this issue.

V 2, And 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.

It was because of a revelation.

Paul was still getting direct revelation from God.

He got direct revelation on the road to Damascus.

He got direct revelation in the house of Ananias.

He got direct revelation three years in Arabia.

He had been getting direct revelation from the Lord for the fourteen years of his ministry.

Now another revelation from heaven comes, and that's the reason he goes to Jerusalem.

A progressive and continuous revelation is a must for every Christian from the Lord through His words, otherwise you will stop growing in the knowledge of God.

Jerusalem was an important and central focus in the life of the Church. Paul was not questioning his gospel, he was being sent there by God. The revelation may have come to Paul first. It may have come to the church leaders with Paul collectively. But they all agree that he needs to be sent to Jerusalem. And this is how the Holy Spirit operated.

Acts 13:2-3, *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*³ *Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

The Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Saul in the first missionary journey a direct revelation. That's how the early church and the apostles functioned, with direct revelation.

So, Paul receives this revelation, the church confirms it, and he heads for Jerusalem to help them with this difficult situation.

V 2, *"I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles."*

Paul mentions 'them', as the church in Jerusalem in Acts 15.

God knew the problems.

God knew the circumcision party.

God knew the Judaizers were doing horrible damage with their mandatory circumcision and legalism.

So, Paul and Barnabas were the right persons to be used by God to bring clarity in the Gospel.

Paul comes, and the first thing he does is to submit to them the gospel which he preached.

V2, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

Of reputation must be to the leaders, the apostles named in verse 9 of Galatians chapter 2.

Galatians 2:9, 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.

James, Peter, John, who were reputed to be pillars.

The Judaizers, they would have believed in Christ, would have held onto their Judaism, and therefore held onto their spiritual pride. This could have resulted in looking down at Paul.

It is not that Paul wanted their approval, but he wanted their affirmation that what he preached was the truth which revealed by Lord Jesus Christ.

As for as Apostle Paul is concerned is that he never doubted the truth that the Lord gave it to him.

Paul was stating that,
I heard it from His lips.
I've never doubted its power.
I've watched it for fourteen years.

I've seen it in my own life.

That was the whole case he put forth in Galatians chapter 1. Being a persecutor of the church now preaching it.

I know the power of the gospel, I know the truth of it, but I want apostolic affirmation. I want you to know that it isn't just that I received it from the Lord, but the apostles confirmed it. I wanted their confirmation, and so I came." And the confirmation came quickly. It came almost instantaneously.

V3, Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

So far Paul was trying to justify the theological points now he is taking one step further to show that it was accepted as practical.

Titus,

Titus 1:4, *To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Titus was Greek, a Gentile!

Living illustration.

Titus, a believer transformed, possessor of the Holy Spirit, companion of Paul and Barnabas.

Titus is a living, redeemed, Spirit-indwelt Gentile who has not been circumcised, and who has not been made to conform to ancestral traditions or Mosaic ceremonies.

What did the apostles do with him?

Did they force him to circumcise?

Did they ask Titus to follow the Moses rituals?

Because whatever they would do with Titus would be their response or answer for this issue.

- If they had said, “Titus must be circumcised,” then what the Judaizers preaching is right.
- But if they had accepted Titus and did not ask him to follow the circumcision and the Jewish traditions then what I preach among you is affirmed by them.

So, Paul says to the Galatians, *“Though he was a Greek, he was not compelled to be circumcised while at Jerusalem in the presence of the apostles.”*

That is a devastating blow to the Judaizers. The Judaizers are looking for a justification of their view and approval from the apostles but they failed to get it.

If the Jewish apostles in Jerusalem didn’t require this Gentile to be circumcised, then how could the Judaizers require it all over the Gentile world?

I know what comes to your mind immediately.

Was not Timothy circumcised after his conversion by Apostle Paul?

Acts 16:1-3, *Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.*

Timothy's mother was Jewish.

Timothy's father was a Gentile.

He was, by all accounts then, considered to be of Jewish blood through his mother.

Paul wanted a companion.

Timothy was going to be his companion.

Timothy was not only companion, but he is going to pick up the baton when Paul finishes his ministry and carry it forward.

Remember where would Apostle Paul go when he goes for missionary journey?

Every town Paul went, first he will go to the synagogue. He will be few converts then he will be rejected there. Then he will go to the Gentile and then establish the church.

No Gentile could come to a synagogue!

Remember in the Old Testament Temple there was a place reserved for the non-Jewish people outside the outer court.

No Gentile could go into the places reserved for Jews.

So, it was important for Timothy to be circumcised!

Because he was considered a Jew, so that Timothy can go along with Paul to go to those places.

Whereas this has added nothing to his life spiritually and it has nothing to with salvation. This was done simply a way to give him access to the Jews along with Paul.

But Titus was a Gentile.

We learn here that the leaders, the apostles James, Peter, John agreed with the position of Paul and Barnabas.

Circumcision is not necessary for salvation,

No ritual,

No rite, and

No external ceremony.

In present day I might be tempted to add no sabbath, no rituals, is essential for salvation.

If the Apostles had Titus circumcised it would have undercut the gospel of grace and made the false gospel is right.

Acts 15:6-12, *Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. ⁷ And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” ¹² Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.*

Peter recalling how he evangelized Cornelius the centurion and all the Gentiles in Cornelius’ house in Acts 10.

Barnabas and Paul related the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

The Council at Jerusalem said,
Circumcision is not required.

There is no work,

there is no ceremony,
there is no tradition that is necessary for salvation.
The Gentile is saved exactly like the Jew through faith apart
from works.

They went on to formulate a letter, when we keep reading in
Acts 15. They formulated a letter that said, "Be careful not to
purposely offend the Jews, but preach the gospel of faith
alone."

The Judaizers had raised their opinions, and they had been
denounced by the apostles.

***V4, 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),***

All of this was because of the false brethren secretly brought in
by Satan, sneaked in themselves under the pretence of being
believers in Jesus Christ.

They came to spy out our liberty, our freedom, which we have
in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

They were secretly smuggled in by Satan.

They came into the church.

They came in to corrupt the truth.

They came in to sow tares.

They came in secretly.

They came in to attack freedom from the law.

Our Lord Jesus taught this through a wonderful parable in Matthew 13. We will not look into detail but for a brief moment.

Matthew 13: 24-30 is the Parable

Matthew 13:36-43 is the explanation of the Parable

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Description	Meaning
Field	World
Good Seed	Sower: Son of Man
Tares seed	Sower: Satan
Wheat	Children of Kingdom
Tares	Children of Wicked
Harvest	End of Age
Harvesters	Angels
Tares	Bundled & burned in Fire
Wheat	Shine as sun in the Kingdom

Liberty:

Freedom from the law to salvation,

Freedom from the law, which was condemning and being punished forever having violated it,

Freedom from the external ceremonies which the Old Testament law required,

Freedom from Jewish traditions,

Freedom from works as a means of sanctification rather than love.

The Christian is free in Christ!

Free from every and any external ceremonies and rituals.

2 Corinthians 3:17, *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

V4, that they might bring us into bondage

They want us to bring into bondage whereas we are free in Christ.

V5, to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul says, “We did not yield in subjection to those false brethren for even an hour,” literally, for a moment.

Why?

that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

What a statement from the heart of a Pastor for over his congregation?

If you are confused about the gospel then you can't then preach the true gospel.

If there is ignorance about the true gospel then consequently, they cannot proclaim that true gospel.

The church then is short-circuited in its purpose in the world.

Conclusion:

My prayer, my desire is that in all that we say, the result is the truth of the gospel remains with you.

When Paul was in Ephesus, he said,

Acts 20:29- 32, *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up,*

speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.* ³² *“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

I didn't cease to warn you with tears for three years, that as soon as I left, the false would come.

They will rise up inside, they will come from the outside, and they will do everything they could do to corrupt you and to steal the gospel.

They will confuse the truth, so that it wouldn't remain with you. You wouldn't be clear in the truth and your fulfilment of your mission in the world will be doubtful.

False teachers are everywhere.

Anyone who comes into the kingdom of God is defined by the New Testament as a soldier, as a fighter.

One who must

- ✓ defend the gospel,
- ✓ defend the Word of God,
- ✓ defend the Truth.

When Paul writes to Timothy, he warns him about false teachers as a young pastor.

When he writes to Titus, he warns him about false teachers.

*All pastors and all leaders are to be able to refute
false doctrine!*

A minimum qualification for a Pastor.

They not only are to be able to do it, but they are to do it.

Satan and his emissaries are disguised as angels of light, but they are from hell. They are the angels of darkness.

Apostle Paul gives us a model for defending the truth!

He was fighting for the true gospel in the face of Judaizers propagating a false gospel of salvation in Christ!

Will you?

