

GALATIANS 2:1-10

Review your memory verse, Galatians 1:3-5.

In Chapter 1 we learned that some of the Galatians had been influenced by outside people who questioned Paul's authority as an apostle. They criticized the fact that he was not one of the "original twelve" and that he had built a reputation in the past as a persecutor of Christians. In the chapter we are about to study, Paul wanted the Galatians to understand his credentials as an apostle to the Gentiles.

1. Why is it important to learn about another's credentials? Think of some modern day examples.

Begin your study with prayer, asking the Lord to give you understanding and enlightenment as to how His Word can be applied to your life.

Read Galatians 2:1-10 slowly and thoughtfully.

2. Re-read each section below, noting questions and/or observations that come to mind.
Galatians 2:1-2

Galatians 2:3-5

Galatians 2:6-7

Galatians 2:8-10

Let's go back and study each section in greater detail.

Re-read Galatians 2:1-2.

3. In Galatians 2:1 Paul indicates that he returned to Jerusalem again after a long absence. He brought with him Barnabas and Titus. What background information can you find on Paul's companions? The following references might be helpful.
Barnabas: (Acts 4:36-37; Acts 11:22-26)

Titus: (Titus 1:4-5; Galatians 2:1-3)

4. According to Galatians 2:2 why did Paul go to Jerusalem?
5.
 - a. What was the gospel that Paul was teaching? (Read Acts 13:16, 38-39.)
 - b. Compare the gospel Paul was preaching to that which Peter was preaching. (Read Acts 10:43.) Are they different? Explain.
6.
 - a. Why do you think Paul went *privately* to "those who seemed to be leaders?"
 - b. Who do you suppose those leaders were? (Galatians 2:9)

For those who want to dig deeper, read Acts 15. It tells about a meeting held in Jerusalem that dealt with the same issues Paul discusses here.

Re-read Galatians 2:3-5.

7.
 - a. Paul spoke of "false brothers" infiltrating their ranks. Who were these false brothers and what did they believe? (Acts 15:1, 5)

 - b. How was circumcision and obeying the Law of Moses going to enslave new believers? (Galatians 5:1-4)

 - c. All through Christian history people have tried to make the gospel of grace more complicated by saying that you are saved by faith in Christ PLUS something more you must DO. What are some of the things you are aware of that groups of people have wanted to ADD to the simple gospel? (Examples might include baptism, church membership etc.)

 - d. Can you think of things in your own Christian walk where you have diminished your freedom in Christ (became "enslaved again") because of a sense of needing to add to the gospel?

Re-read Galatians 2:6-10.

8.
 - a. Who endorsed Paul's calling to the Gentiles? (Galatians 2:9)

 - b. Paul's ministry was not limited to the Gentiles. When he arrived in a new location, where did he regularly go first? (Acts 13:14; Acts 14:1)

 - c. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to those Jews who did not accept the gospel of Christ? (Acts 13:46-48)

9. a. In Galatians 2:2, 6 and 9, what tone do you recognize in the words "seemed to be" and "reputed to be" (NIV)?
- b. Would you say Paul was intimidated by those in authority? Explain.

Heart Check: How about you? Are you intimidated by those in authority? Explain.

10. James, Peter, and John gave Paul and Barnabas their endorsement to go to the Gentiles. What was their request (verse 10) and how did Paul and Barnabas fulfill it (Acts 11:27-30, 24:17)?

Review your completed lesson.

11. Paul was convinced that liberty in Christ was so important to understand that he was willing to sacrifice his personal security, popularity, and even his life for it. Have you ever risked popularity or security to share your spiritual liberty in Christ with another person? Explain.
12. What has God shown you that you would like, by His grace, to remember and apply to your life this week?