



Week 3: Galatians 2:1-10

GOSPEL GRACE

As Paul continues his narrative, he recounts a pivotal council in Jerusalem. There, the church leaders, including himself and Barnabas, debated the role of Gentiles in the new faith. The central issue was circumcision: should Gentile converts be required to follow this Jewish tradition? Paul emphasizes that the council firmly rejected this notion. True faith, he reminds them, rests not on outward rituals, but on the transformative and amazing grace of God.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 2:1-10

¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I 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. ³ But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴ Yet 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-- ⁵ to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶ And 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. ⁷ On 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), ⁹ and 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. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

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LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. In your opinion what matters most when it comes to seeking unity?
2. Think of something you enjoy from your childhood that has stayed as simple and unchanged as it was back then.

DIVING DEEPER

3. Still tracking an autobiographical tone, these verses outline a confrontation which occurred in Jerusalem years after Paul was saved. How many years have passed, and what was the nature of the conflict?
4. Do you think it was wise for Paul to keep his appointment with the Apostles private?
5. What is taking place in verse 2? How would it be possible for Paul to be running his race, "in vain"?
6. Remembering the wider context of Galatians, why do you think Paul makes mention that Titus (a Gentile Christian, and co-worker with Paul) was not forced to be circumcised?
7. Reflecting on your answer to the previous question, what would be an equivalent comparison today? How might someone in your context insist upon adding requirements to your salvation?
8. According to Paul in verse 6, what does adding to the gospel ultimately accomplish? Do you think he is overstating things?

9. If the "false brothers" of verse 4 had succeeded in the efforts, how would the Church have changed? What do you think it would look like today globally if this had happened?
10. According to verse 9, what was the determining factors for the apostles' acceptance of Paul and his message? What do you think this means?
11. How would you respond to someone who claims that the gospel needs to be updated and revised to address the changing needs of our times?
12. Consider some Christian groups whose presentation made grate on you (for example, their music, preaching, dress, worship style, general approach, or even architecture). How does seeing that there is only one gospel help with your acceptance of them?