

Paul defends the Gospel against False Brothers

Galatians 2:1 - 5

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Paul visits Jerusalem Again

Galatians 2:1 (NASB)

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

- > "Then" is the third in a series denoting chronological sequence
- > Barnabas was first introduced in Acts 4:36, 37

Paul went and set before the "pillars" the gospel he preached

Galatians 2:2a (HCSB)

I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles

- > "According to revelation" means from Jesus Christ
- > Paul knew his gospel was true and from Jesus Christ, but wanted the Jerusalem "pillars" to affirm this because of the attacks of false brothers

Paul wanted agreement on the gospel lest it would be “empty”

Galatians 2:2b (HCSB)

but privately to those recognized as leaders—so that I might not be running, or have run the race, in vain.

- “Recognized” can be “reputed to be important”
- These were James, Peter, and John (Gal. 2:9).

Titus was a Gentile Convert

Galatians 2:3 (HCSB)

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

- The circumcision issue was a threat to the Gospel
- Was Christianity to be more than a Jewish sect?

False brothers infiltrated the church

Galatians 2:4 (HCSB)

This issue arose because of false brothers smuggled in, who came in secretly to spy on the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us.

- This is political and military espionage terminology
- Their goal was to enslave the Gentile Christians

The truth of the gospel was at stake

Galatians 2:5 (HCSB)

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

- > The Greek says “the subjection” (submit); they made their demands binding for fellowship
- > Caving in on this would cause slavery and undermine the truth of the gospel

Implications and Applications

- > The gospel plus anything is empty and vain
- > False teaching causes slavery, not freedom
- > False teachers must be rebuked and resisted because the truth of the gospel is at stake

The gospel plus anything is empty and vain

1Corinthians 15:1, 2 (NASB)

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

False teaching causes slavery, not freedom

Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

False teachers must be rebuked and resisted because the truth of the gospel is at stake

2 Timothy 4:1, 2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Benediction

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20, 21
