## **GALATIANS 2:1-10**

## Review...

- THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA...
  - o Galatia was not a city it was a geographical region group of churches...
  - o The problem was false teachers called Judaizers who had come into the churches...
  - o So Paul wrote the book to establish our freedom from the gospel of 'Legalism'...
- GALATIANS 1:1-9 THE GOSPEL OF GRACE...
  - o The message of the Gospel Grace and Peace through the cross of Jesus...
  - o Rejecting Legalism Paul commanded them to reject any other gospel!
- GALATIANS 1:10-24 A BETTER GOSPEL...
  - o 1st Legalism (religion) only pleases men / the Gospel of Grace is about pleasing God!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> The Gospel of God / not of men Paul had received the Gospel from Jesus!
    - Jesus met Paul on the road to Damascus as he was going to kill Christians...
    - After Paul's salvation he did not talk to any leaders in the church Jesus taught Him!
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> The Gospel of Grace produces lasting fruit it is about God's Work / not ours...
    - None of the churches in Judea ever saw Paul after his conversion...
    - They only heard about the work God was doing in Paul's life!

## THE COUNSEL OF JERUSALEM... (3 THINGS)

- 1<sup>ST</sup> THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES... VS. 1-2
  - o After 14 years Paul went up to Jerusalem...
    - This was not Paul's second trip to the Holy city...
      - Paul taught at the church of Antioch in Syria for most of this interval...
      - During that time he made at least one other trip to Jerusalem...
      - He brought money to the poor saints in from the church of Antioch Acts 11:30...
    - After Paul and Barnabus had returned from the first missionary journey...
      - They took this trip because the Judaizers had come to the church in Antioch...
      - Acts 15:1 "Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."
      - They taught that in order to be saved you must be circumcised keep the Law...
    - Paul went up to Jerusalem to defend the Gospel of Grace...
      - Paul met with the leadership of the church Peter / John / James...
      - And shared with them the Gospel of Grace he taught among the Gentiles...
      - He did not want to see the work destroyed by the Legalism of the Judaizers!
  - o The defense of Grace (3 things)...
    - 1<sup>st</sup> The Law has its place but it is not for salvation...
      - The purpose of the Law is to show we are sinners...
        - o The Law points out to us all our failures showed us all our flaws...
        - o **Galatians 3:26 –** "The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

- o The problem is it does nothing / can do nothing to help us change...
- o There is only the ability to show us what we do is wrong not to make it right...
- The Law actually stirs in us the desire for sin sin that leads to judgment/death...
  - o Have you ever seen a sign that says 'wet paint' and felt the need to touch it...
  - o Why is it the only toy a child wants is the one they do not have...
  - o Why is it the moment we are given a 'rule' / 'law' we want to disobey it...
  - o Because we are sinners and the Law 'stirs' up our sinful desires...
  - o Those sins inevitably lead to death physical death / spiritual death!
- It only takes one sin to keep you out of heaven...
  - o James 2:10 "Whoever keeps the law, yet stumble in one point, is guilty of all."
  - o God standard for heaven is perfection not even one sin Matthew 5:48...
  - o When we understand God's standard we see our need for Jesus!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The only way to get to heaven is through faith in Jesus...
  - It is not being a sinner (we all are Roman 3:23) that keeps us from heaven...
  - It is rejecting the solution for sin that God provided in Jesus Christ...
  - We are saved by believing in the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sin on the cross
  - **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
  - We do not earn our way to Heaven it is a gift to those who believe in Jesus!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The place of the Law in a believer's walk...
  - Being saved by Grace does not mean we can live our lives in sin Romans 6:1
    - o We are not saved by keeping the Law/works but if we are saved...
    - o You will be able to tell by what kind of works/fruit comes from my life...
    - o **James 2:17-18** "So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless..."
    - o Easy to say we have 'faith' and 'believe' in Jesus but the proof is in our actions...
    - o If we say we're Christians but still live like the world do we really have faith...
  - If we are saved then the result should be good fruit coming from our lives!
    - o **II Corinthians 13:5** "Test yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine."
    - o Eternity is too important to be uncertain check out the fruit on your branches...
    - o Be certain that you 'bear' the fruit of a life transformed by Jesus...

## • 2<sup>ND</sup> - DO NOT COMPROMISE TO THE LAW... vs. 3-5

- o Paul brought Titus (a Greek who was not circumcised) with him to Jerusalem...
  - Titus was a key example of what the debate in the church was about...
    - A Gentile believer who was not circumcised was not keeping the Law of Moses...
    - Those who we pressing for the Gospel of Legalism wanted Titus to be circumcised...
    - It is possible even Titus felt the need to conform be like the other Jews...
    - If everyone is not eating pork we feel funny if we do...
    - If everyone is dressing up for church on Sunday we feel funny if we do not...
  - It is easy to get sucked up into legalism feel the pressure to conform...
    - But there are only two things that can come from Legalism...
    - If we manage to keep the rules we feel like we have boasting rights....

- If we fail to keep the rules and do not do as well as others condemnation...
- The Judaizers came in secretly to bring the believers into bondage...
  - They saw the freedom the Gospel of Grace brought and they did not like it...
  - They all kept the Law so in their mind everyone else had to as well!
  - If we have convictions we think God expects to obey we expect others to as well...
  - We might be convicted that we have to go to church on Saturday...
  - Or be convicted that we need to give 10% of our money to the church...
  - Yet often we get our 'convictions' not from God but from other people...
  - But we tend to look down on and judge others who do not have those same rules...
  - Then we tend to think we are better Christians more righteous than they are...
- o Paul would have nothing to do with it he ABSOLUTELY refused to circumcise Titus...
  - What is interesting is Paul did circumcise Timothy Acts 16:3
    - The reason Timothy was a Jew where Titus was a Gentile...
      - o No one should have been surprised Titus being a Greek was not circumcised...
      - o Timothy had Jewish mother the circumcision was the sign he was a Jew...
      - o Timothy was circumcised not to be saved but so as not to offend the culture...
    - There are times when we should we relent and follow the 'rules' of others...
      - o If you want me to wear shoes and a nice shirt to church I can do that...
      - o I Corinthians 9:22 "All things to all men, that I might by all means save some..."
      - o We should be willing to be flexible so we can to reach others with the Gospel...
  - But Paul did not give in to Judaizers even for one hour!
    - Because they were not talking about culture to them it was about salvation!
    - For the sake of the Gentile churches Paul would not give in to their pressure...
    - Typically when we hear how to be a 'good' Christian we are given a lot of rules...
    - Read your Bible / go to church / pray every day / stay away from 'bad' people...
    - They are good things but following rules does not make us righteous...
    - We are not a better person if we read our Bible today or worse if we do not...
    - The danger of these rules are they cannot change our hearts Colossians 2:21-23
    - When depend on these rules we end up putting ourselves in danger...
    - Because we trust in the rules rather than looking to and depending on the Lord!
- $3^{RD}$  The counsel of Jerusalem... vs. 6-10
  - o The courtroom setting... vs. 6
    - To finally solve this Great debate do Gentiles have to become Jews to be saved...
    - A counsel was called and the leaders of the church met to decide...
    - The Apostles Peter / John / and James (the Lord's brother) presided...
    - Not that Paul was dropping names 'God shows personal favoritism to no man...'
    - It was Paul and Barnabus stood in defense of the Gospel of Grace...
    - While the Judaizers many of them former Pharisees argued for Legalism...
  - o The Apostle to the Gentiles... vs. 7-8
    - The Judaizers assumed the counsel (all Jewish leaders) would rule in their favor...
      - Instead Peter stood up and joined in to defend the Gospel of Grace...
      - Peter was used by God to bring salvation to the gentles Cornelius Acts 10

- God gave proof He had granted salvation to the Gentiles baptism of the Spirit...
- So the Jews did believe that God had granted salvation to Gentiles Acts 11:18...
- But the Jew had the Law of God and they thought that made them better...
- If you read a book on how to drive a car and a map how to get to Bacolod
- That does not mean you have driven a car to Bacolod reading is not enough
- There are many 'religious' who can quote Bible verses tell you all about the Word
- But their lives do nor reflect their knowledge they don't live what they preach
- Knowing what Jesus can save you is not the same as believing in Jesus!
- Peter's conclusion why would we burden the Gentiles Acts 15:10...
  - The Jews were never able to live up to the standard of the Law...
  - So why would they want to place that impossible standard on the Gentiles...
  - If I told you the only way to heaven was to swim across the Pacific Ocean...
  - The first question you would want to ask did you swim across yet...
  - If I were unable to keep my own rules why would you want to follow them!
  - Matthew 23:4-5 "They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."
  - So many churches today suffer from hypocrisy living a double standard...
  - From the pulpit you hear the message of holiness / purity...
  - But practically the people listening even the pastors live just like the world...
  - If even they cannot live up to the message obviously it does not work...
- o The conclusion of the counsel of Jerusalem... vs. 9-10
  - Peter said that the Jews could be saved the same way as the Gentiles...
    - So not only did the Gentiles not need to become Jews in order to be saved...
    - It was the Jews who had to be saved just like the Gentiles faith in Jesus!
    - So the Gospel of Grace was the only Gospel for Jew and Gentile alike!
    - Paul might be the Apostle to the Gentiles / Peter to the Jews...
    - But the message they both taught was salvation by faith in Jesus!
  - The main decision of the counsel was to spread the Gospel of Grace to all!
    - The Pillars of the church James / Peter / and John saw the Grace given to Paul...
    - They extended the right hand of fellowship they would reach the Jews...
    - Paul and Barnabus would go to share the Gospel of Grace with the Gentiles...
  - The only other request they made remember the poor...
    - This is something that was already important to Paul...
    - He and Barnabas has delivered money for the poor from Antioch...
    - Acts 11:30 "They sent [money] to the elders by the hands of Barnabas & Saul."
    - Paul also encouraged Corinth and Macedonia to give a collection for the poor...
    - **Romans 15:26** "For it pleased those from Macedonia and Corinth to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem."
    - You can always spot a good church / believer by two things...
    - 1<sup>st</sup> They are focused on telling other people about Jesus the Gospel of Grace...
    - They do not concern themselves with religion / rules / of denomination...
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> At the same time they are concerned about and care for the needs of others!