

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 2:1-14

Lesson 3

As we study this section of Galatians, we will peek into Paul's first fight for Christian liberty. His first was at the Jerusalem counsel; his second was with Peter. Paul adamantly fought for the truth of the gospel whether it be in Jerusalem with pillars of the church or privately with Peter. His message never changed. May we, as we study this lesson, learn to be steadfast and not waver no matter what situation we are faced with.

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 2:1-14

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 2:1-14 has been divided into two paragraph divisions. The second paragraph division ends with verse 21. Therefore, for the purpose of this lesson, list below the subject(s) covered in Galatians 2:1-10.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *Jesus, grace, gospel, and Gentiles*

New to this lesson: *bondage and live*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 2:1-14. Remember, as you mark the word *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him.

3. Paul used the contrasting term *but* five times in this section. Mark the word on your Observation Worksheets. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.
4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 2:1-5

1. Paul continued with his personal narrative in Galatians 2. What does Galatians 2:1a say happened *after fourteen* years?
2. Who did Paul take with him to Jerusalem? verse 1b
 - a. Barnabas is mentioned in many places in the New Testament, especially in the book of Acts. Jot down a few things you observe about him from Acts 11:22-26.
 - b. What do we learn about Titus' nationality from Galatians 2:3?
3. There had been a dispute between the Jewish and Gentile believers that caused the church to convene a council in Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35). According to Acts 15:1, what issue brought about the necessity for this counsel assembly?
4. Galatians 2:2 reveals Paul's purpose for *again* visiting Jerusalem. Observe this from the Phillips translation: *My visit on this occasion was a divine command, and I gave a full exposition of the Gospel which I preach among the Gentiles. I did this first in private conference with the church leaders to make sure that what I had done and proposed doing was acceptable to them.* State Paul's purpose according to this verse.
 - a. What can we learn here about submission?
 - b. Paul had no doubt as to the validity of the gospel, for he had received it directly from Christ (Galatians 1:11,12). Therefore, his consultation with the Christian leaders at Jerusalem was not to ascertain if the gospel was correct. Rather, it was to present his case that the Gentile believers were not bound to the Jewish laws. Paul had not required the Gentile converts to be circumcised. They were accepted into the church on the basis of their faith in Christ. How did the example of Titus prove Paul's point? Galatians 2:3
 - 1.) Who does Galatians 2:4 indicate was the source of the argument regarding circumcision for a Gentile?
 - 2.) What was their sinister objective?
5. How did Paul respond to these *false brethren*? Galatians 2:5
 - a. Why did he withstand their opposition so steadfastly?

b. In what way is Paul an example for you if anyone would try to undermine your faith by adding rules and regulations to the gospel?

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 2:6-10

1. In these verses, Paul continued reporting the outcome of his meeting with the apostles concerning the gospel and the liberty of the Gentile Christians. *But from those who seemed to be something* (Galatians 2:6) refers to the leaders in the Jerusalem church. Observe Galatians from the NIV: *those men added nothing to my message*. What is Paul establishing by this statement?
 - a. Thoughtfully consider the parenthetical statement in Galatians 2:6 that refers to those of reputation in the following version: *whatever they were makes no difference to me; God is no respecter of persons*. How is the truth of God's impartiality toward man a warning and a comfort?
2. *But on the contrary*, what did these leaders recognize? Galatians 2:7
 - a. Both Paul and Peter had been entrusted with the same gospel, but they were sent to two different groups of people: Paul to the Gentiles, Peter to the Jews. According to Galatians 2:8, who *worked effectively* in both men's ministries?
3. Who are the *pillars* mentioned in Galatians 2:9?
 - a. This *James* was the half-brother of Jesus. He was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. *Cephas* is another name for Peter. *John* is John, the beloved disciple of Jesus. Paul identifies these *pillars* of the church who would be well known to the Galatian believers. In your own words, write what these men did when they *perceived the grace that had been given to Paul*.
 - 1.) How would this have strengthened Paul's credibility with the Galatians?
4. From Galatians 2:10, what was required of Paul and those ministering with him?
 - a. What does *caring for the poor* have to do with the *gospel*?

- b. ...*the very thing which I also was eager to do* (Galatians 6:10). Share how the following verses confirm Paul's attitude toward *the poor*:

Acts 11:29,30

Romans 15:25,26

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

- c. List a few practical ways you can *remember the poor*.

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 2:11-13

1. The scene changes in Galatians 2:11-13 as Paul recalled another incident. Summarize what happened in Antioch (in Syria).

2. *Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.* Galatians 2:12 NIV It was against the Jewish law for a Jew to eat with a Gentile. Peter knew that he was free from this law and in the past had eaten with Gentile believers. Why did he *separate himself* from the Gentiles this time?

- a. In what way does Peter's action portray inconsistency and hypocrisy?

- 1.) All of us are vulnerable to inconsistency and hypocrisy. Share some areas of compromise that are common to believers today.

Challenge: Find a few verses that help you resist compromise.

3. In what ways do some Christians try to impose rules on others?

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 2:14

1. Write Galatians 2:14 phrase by phrase.
 - a. Paul is contending for *the truth of the gospel*. When he *saw that they* (some Jewish believers) *were not straightforward about the gospel*, what did he do?
 - 1.) *They were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel...*NIV The gospel teaches that a person is saved by grace, not by the law. The truth was being misrepresented by their actions since they were no longer obligated to keep these Jewish laws. Why would this be serious enough for Paul to confront Peter *before them all*?
2. Summarize Paul's charge against Peter from Galatians 2:14b. Use other versions to help you with this.
3. Why do you think it is sometimes easier for Christians to live by rules than by faith?
4. Paul had the courage to confront Peter over these fundamental issues. Peter was apparently receptive to the correction of his brother, Paul. How does this provide an example for you?
 - a. What do the following verses teach us about receiving correction?

Proverbs 10:17

Proverbs 12:1
5. If Paul had not spoken out against Peter's inconsistency, what could have happened among Hebrew and Gentile Christians?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 2:1-14

1. Briefly summarize what happened in Jerusalem and in Antioch from the following verses:

Galatians 2:1-10 (Jerusalem)

Galatians 2:11-14 (Antioch)

2. While at Jerusalem, Paul had the courage to withstand those who tried to bring believers into bondage. He refused to be moved from his position *that the truth of the gospel might continue with you*. Today we are blessed to have the gospel of grace through faith preserved in the Word of God and preached from our pulpit. How does this stir you to proclaim and guard *the truth of the gospel*?
3. Peter believed and preached the gospel of grace, yet in the instance of Galatians 2:11-13 his life contradicted his message. What warning is there in this for you?
 - a. Galatians 2:12,13 reveals a situation where the people present seemed to dictate the behavior of others. Why is this dangerous?
4. In what way has Paul's example of contending for the faith ministered to you?
5. Share something new you have learned from the study of Galatians 2:1-14.

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
...stand firm in one spirit,
contending as one man for the faith of the gospel
without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.
- Philippians 1:27,28 NIV*



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