

Galatians Chapter 2

Verse 3

1. Titus was a Gentile convert who had never submitted to circumcision, yet he clearly was a believer and loved Jesus with all of his heart.
2. Titus was representative of multitudes of Gentiles who had placed their faith in Christ, apart from circumcision or the law.
3. It appears that some of those at Jerusalem tried to compel Titus to be circumcised, but Titus and Paul would not give in to the pressure.
4. Titus was a full Gentile (unlike Timothy who was part Jewish), and for him to have submitted to circumcision would have indicated that he was missing something in his Christian life. Paul and Titus stood their ground.
5. Paul wanted the Judaizers to have to acknowledge that Titus was, in fact, a saved man.

Verses 4-5

1. Paul indicates that there were false brethren at the Jerusalem Council who were there for the purpose of bringing the Gentiles under the bondage of their rules and requirements.
2. As Paul and Barnabas shared with the church all the fruit that God had given them among the Gentiles, this group, known as the Judaizers, were not being blessed by their report. **Acts 15:4-5**
3. These Judaizers had a clear agenda - they wanted Paul's converts to be under their thumb, following their prescribed rules and laws.
 - "false brethren" - a pretended associate
 - "unawares brought in" - smuggled in
 - "bring us into bondage" - to enslave utterly
4. This is still very common today. Churches and their leaders exercise religious tyranny over their people. They bring people under the bondage of their rules and laws.
 - Instead of walking with Christ in grace, it's everybody trying to walk according to "the list."
5. Paul, Barnabas, and Titus refused to give an inch to these false brethren (vs. 5). They fought hard to protect their Gentile converts, that the truth of the gospel might continue with them.
6. Let this be a lesson: Satan will use anything he can to get your focus off of Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him. Many Christians have gotten so preoccupied with trying to keep the list of what a "good Christian" does, that they have completely gotten their eyes off of the beauty of their Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - When this happens, the Christian life is no longer a **walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)**, it is a **work of the flesh** (Galatians. 3:2-3).