

Galatians Chapter 2

Verse 6

1. It is obvious from this verse that Paul was not into church politics. Paul couldn't care less about brown-nosing to try and move up the ecclesiastical ladder.
2. Men and their positions did not impress Paul - he was enamored with One - Jesus Christ!
 - In **1 Corinthians 3:21** he stated, "Therefore let no man glory in men."
3. Paul respected the leaders at the Jerusalem Council; otherwise he would have never gone in the first place, but he did not fear them or seek to pacify them in any way.
4. Paul said that in conference they added nothing to him. What could the twelve apostles (former fishermen and tax collectors) teach Paul about God's prophetic program for Israel?
 - Paul was a Pharisee before salvation - a Hebrew of the Hebrews. **Philippians 3:5**
 - He was taught the Scriptures from childhood at the feet of Gamaliel. **Acts 22:3**
 - Paul was well acquainted with the law and the prophets. This is why he said, "...in conference they added nothing to me."
5. Think about this - Paul had been saved for 17 years at this point. In 17 years, he had only spent two weeks with a couple of the apostles (1:18-19). In spite of this, there was nothing they could teach Paul about God's plan for this dispensation of grace. Why is this?
 - Because while they continued working with Israel, God was revealing the new truths of grace to Paul, and Paul was writing and sharing this truth with the Gentile churches.
6. While they added nothing to Paul in conference, there was much that Paul could add to them. Paul must have explained to them his message and ministry of grace, according to verse 7.

Verse 7

1. The twelve apostles recognized the Gentile ministry that God had commissioned Paul to fulfill. Paul had a unique message and ministry given to Him by Jesus Christ and the apostles saw it and officially recognized it.
2. This verse mentions two gospels: the gospel of the uncircumcision and the gospel of the circumcision. What is meant by these two terms?
3. Let's begin with the **gospel of the circumcision**.
 - Abraham was the first person given the rite of circumcision. It was to separate Abraham's seed from the wicked, uncircumcised nations around them.
 - Through Abraham's physical seed came the nation of Israel. They were referred to as "the circumcision." It was prophesied that through Israel, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. **Acts 3:25-26**
 - Israel had rejected their King (Jesus), but Peter proclaimed good news to them. If they would repent and turn to Christ, God would forgive their sins and send Jesus

to establish their earthly kingdom by which all the Gentile nations would be blessed. **Acts 3:19-21**

- The twelve apostles focused their efforts on proclaiming this gospel to Israel and seeking to bring them to repentance and faith in Christ as their Messiah. **Acts 8:1**
4. Now let's look at the **gospel of the uncircumcision**.
 - In the Bible, "the uncircumcision" refers to the Gentile nations.
 - Paul says that this gospel was committed unto him.
 - What exactly was this good news? It was the good news that individuals in all nations could be saved, forgiven of all their sins, and reconciled to God through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
 - Gentiles could be made righteous, apart from Israel, the keeping of the law, or the rite of circumcision.
 - Paul even uses the example of Abraham (an uncircumcised Gentile when God saved him) to prove the legitimacy of his gospel. Romans 4
 5. This is why Paul took Titus with him to Jerusalem. Titus was a wonderful example of a Gentile man who had simply accepted Jesus Christ by faith, and God had changed his heart and life. Titus was living proof that Paul's gospel of the uncircumcision was legitimate and real.
 6. The **basis** of both of these gospels is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ from the dead, but, as we can see, they are **not** identical.

Verses 8 -9

1. Peter was instrumental in bringing many people from the nation of Israel to faith in Christ. Yet, as a nation, their leadership and the majority of Israel were unrepentant and even caustic towards the followers of Jesus Christ (see Acts 7).
2. This is why we see Peter and the twelve disappearing off the scene in the Biblical record after the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. They had agreed to confine their work to reaching Israel, and we hear no more about them in the book of Acts.
3. God had saved Paul in Acts 9, and revealed to him a new message of grace. God had graciously decided to extend an offer of peace to individuals in all nations. It could be accepted by faith alone in Jesus Christ.
 - This is the gospel that would go to the nations, and God had worked through Paul mightily to reach multitudes for Christ.
 - The same God who worked through Peter had worked through Paul.
 - This is not to say that Peter never approached a Gentile or that Paul never witnessed to a Jew. Both of them, in fact, did. But, the focus of their ministries was clearly defined.
4. The Jerusalem Council ended with a historic handshake between Paul and the other apostles.
 - The leaders at Jerusalem recognized God's calling upon Paul to take the gospel of grace to the Gentiles.
 - They recognized that Paul's Gentile converts were indeed saved apart from any works of the law. **Acts 15:19**