

Paul's Perspective of the Jerusalem Council

Scripture Reading:

- **Galatians 1:13-2:10**

INTRODUCTION

◆ In Acts 15, we saw the beginning of God's transition of the daily life of a believer from LAW to GRACE. Now, in the Galatian Letter, we see Paul's expanded perspective of that church council.

◆ cf Acts 15:1-2,12

Paul's 17-year Prelude to the Jerusalem Council

Galatians 1:13-2:1

From Jerusalem to Damascus, to Arabic Damascus, and back to Jerusalem in 3 years - Gal 1:15-19

- ◆ Called - vs 15
- ◆ Employed - vs 16
- ◆ Instructed - vs 17
- ◆ Back to Jerusalem to see Peter and James for 15 days - 1:21,2:1



**Paul's
Purpose for
Meeting those
of
“Reputation”
– the Apostles
and Elders**

To see if his gospel to the Gentiles was empty of content, i.e., the wrong message

- Gentiles were saved by grace for initial salvation and then to live by grace for present-tense salvation

To see if his effort was empty of content, i.e., the wrong efforts

Paul's Proof of the Accuracy of His Gospel Message and His Efforts to Communicate That Message (Galatians 2:3-10)

- ◆ Titus wasn't compelled to be circumcised – vs 3

- ◆ “false brethren”

- ◆ they accepted the Gentiles faith for initial salvation,

- ◆ but rejected their lifestyle of grace for present-tense salvation

- ◆ They were smuggled into this private meeting - vs 4

- ◆ Their purpose: Gal 4:3, 9, 24—25, 5:1

- ◆ To spy out the liberty in Christ Jesus of Paul and Gentile believers

- ◆ To bring them into bondage of The Law

Paul's Proof of the Accuracy of His Gospel Message and His Efforts to Communicate That Message (Galatians 2:3-10)

- ◆ Paul did not submit to their point of view even for one hour, in order that **THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL** might continue to feel at ease (thoroughly) with the Gentile believers – vs 5
- ◆ They added nothing to Paul and his understanding of living by LAW vs living by GRACE
- ◆ On the contrary, the apostles recognized:
 - ◆ That Paul was caused to believe the gospel concerning the uncircumcised, even as Peter to the circumcision – vs 7
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit energized Peter and Paul to their respective ministries as Apostles – vs 8

Paul's Proof of the Accuracy of His Gospel Message and His Efforts to Communicate That Message (Galatians 2:3-10)

◆ Apostles James, Peter, and John

- ◆ Recognized that Paul and Barnabas had received grace to be gifted as Apostles
- ◆ Recognized their differences of ministry
 - ◆ Different groups that they and Paul and Barnabas were sent to minister
 - ◆ Different message for present-tense salvation for the believing Jew and believing Gentiles (at that time!) – vs 9
 - ◆ But remember the poor Jewish believers – vs 10

◇ Paul's contribution to the decision made at Jerusalem, concerning how Gentiles were to live their daily Christian life, was far greater than the account given in Acts 15:12

◇ Paul unyieldingly recognized God's transition of daily life under LAW to daily life empowered by GRACE

CONCLUSION