

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Justified By The Faith of Jesus Christ**  
**Galatians 2**

Last time...while Paul was in Ephesus for 2 years, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write 2 letters of correction to churches he had planted – Galatians and 1 Corinthians

Galatians 1: Amazed they are so soon removed from God the Father unto another gospel

This time...having declared as anathema all other gospels (all false, all “bad news”), Paul

- cites a contradiction of the false gospel
- an example of how insidious this works-based gospel is
- declares
  - how we can be justified, declared innocent of all wrong by God
  - the horrific conclusion of the false gospel being preached (Jesus Plus works)

We will be in Gal 2

v1 fourteen years...Barnabas...Titus:

After reviewing

- the authenticity and bibliography for the Gospel he preached...  
from Jesus Christ Himself
- his personal testimony and conversion in the faith

Paul reminds the churches in Galatia of what happened at the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Council (Acts 15) resulting in James’ letter that he delivered to them

Fourteen years after Ch 1:18-19, Paul returns to Jerusalem with

- Barnabas
  - “introduced” Paul to the other 11 apostles after his conversion (Ch 9:27-29)
  - encouraged Paul in the ministry in Antioch
  - accompanied Paul on the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey to Galatia...  
they all know him
- Titus
  - not mentioned in Acts 15
  - Gentile believer
  - trusted friend and helper of Paul

How precious a person like this is!!!

v2 by revelation...that gospel...in vain:

In Jerusalem he privately shared with the other 11 apostles and the elders of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:6) “that gospel” he received from Jesus and preached to the Gentiles, the Gospel of Grace... salvation by God’s grace, not by man’s work

At stake in that Church Council was the nature of the Gospel to be preached to the Gentiles...how is sinful and condemned man saved from the wages of sin and the wrath of God

If the Gospel is “Jesus Plus works”, Paul had labored in vain, he is running his course as a preacher of Good News to no good.

But if the gospel is “Jesus Plus works”, there was a contradiction in the very meeting in Jerusalem

v3 neither Titus...was compelled:

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Council was a contingent of believing Pharisees whose stand on the gospel to preach to the Gentiles was (Acts 15:5)

1. faith in Jesus Christ
2. circumcision
3. keep the Law

But...if that were the true gospel, nothing was done about Titus at the Council, either at the beginning or after its conclusion

This believing Gentile was not forced to be circumcised

If the conclusion of the Spirit-led discussion of 12 apostles and the elders of the church regarding the nature of the Gospel was in-line with the accursed gospel now being preached and received in the churches of Galatia,

Titus would have been compelled to be circumcised

But he wasn’t;

Titus is a contradiction to the gospel of the Judaizers in Galatia

v4-5 false brethren unawares...spy out...bring us into bondage...not for an hour:  
The Holy Spirit thru Paul reveals the nature of those Pharisees and their doctrine  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Council

False brethren

- pretenders
- enemy agents/spies
- wolves in sheep's clothing...predators

who

- smuggled a false doctrine into the meeting
- entered stealthily
- personally or whose disciples now trouble the churches in Galatia by perverting the truth of the Gospel (Ch 1:7)

Their agenda, in Jerusalem then and in Galatia now, was to

- add the works of man into God's Plan of Redemption to corrupt/destroy the Gospel of God's grace
- not set the captives free but to capture the free and put them back into bondage

But, those who know the Truth, eyewitnesses of the risen Lord (His 12 Apostles),  
did not yield to this deception and corruption of the Truth they know  
personally

The lie was instantly shut down and the Gospel whereby man must be saved was  
preserved uncompromised

- No additions
- No subtractions
- No changes

By God's Gospel of Grace, the believer,

- born-again of the Spirit of God by faith
- given the power of God to become the child of God,

is set free from

- the condemnation of the Law
- the wages of sin, which is death
- the power of death and he who has it (the devil)
- the fear of death
- the wrath of God for sin, the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

by Jesus Christ

- Matt 5:17
- Rom 10:4
- Rom 5:1
- 2 Cor 3:17

v6 these who seemed...in conference:

Paul notes that those spies/pretenders/wolves, who gave the appearance of being in conference (agreement, like-minded) with the Apostles and elders of the church, added nothing to the Gospel he preached or to his calling/ministry

They added their opinion and doctrine  
Man's opinions or doctrines matter not, for God is not a respecter of persons  
All that matters is what God has said

v7-8 But contrariwise:

Rather, it was the Judaizers that were "enlightened"

They came to realize that just as

- Peter was the Apostle sent to the Jews  
(with whom they had no issue),  
so Paul was the Apostle sent to the Gentiles  
(with whom they did have issue)
- The Lord worked mighty thru Peter, so did He thru Paul

That is, to oppose Paul was to oppose the Lord Jesus Christ Himself

With that, Pastor James documented the result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Council and had it sent to all the churches, including those in Galatia

v9-10 pillars, perceived...unto the heathen:

The Lord's calling upon Paul's life was abundantly clear to the church leaders... James, Peter, and John.

They continued their calling to the Jews and embraced Paul's calling to the Gentiles

All they asked of Paul was to not forget the poor, persecuted church at Jerusalem, which Paul was earnest to do

So the issue regarding the nature of the Gospel of Grace is settled in the hearts of the followers of Jesus Christ, right?

No...not then and still not now, for the Gospel of Grace whereby men must be saved has always been under attack

The issue swirling around the Gospel remained in the early Church and remains to this day; it is very insidious...very subtle and seemingly harmless yet in reality a grave threat

Example then: the Apostle to the Jews, Jewish believers Antioch, and the "son of encouragement"

v11-14 when Peter was come to Antioch:

Antioch was the center of evangelism to the world, Paul's home base/church  
Where God is working, so is...the devil

According to the writings of Clement

- an early church father
- a convert of Barnabas
- disciple of Peter
- eyewitness of Paul and John

to Antioch went Simon Magnus

- corrupter, magician (Acts 8)
- father of Gnosticism

to contend with Paul and "his" Gospel

Also according to the writings of Clement, both Peter and Paul frequently  
confronted Simon Magnus, face-to-face

In fact, Peter was personally dispatched by James to wherever Simon Magnus  
went to oppose him

Here, Paul references Peter's mission to Antioch...

a prime example that showed how insidious was the false gospel,  
even in the early church leadership that agreed with James' ruling in  
Acts 15

Before additional believers from Jerusalem arrived in Antioch to support him,  
Peter would eat with the Gentiles

Perhaps a juicy pork chop or a cheeseburger or scrambled eggs and bacon or a  
ham and Swiss on rye

And not just Peter but also Barnabas and other Jewish believers there in Antioch

But when the Jews from Jerusalem arrived, Peter put up a wall between him and  
his Gentile brethren...out of fear of the Jewish believers sent by James

Fearful of man and not God, fearful of being judged by man and not God  
"Gasp! Peter is breaking the dietary Law!!!"

And not just Peter but also Barnabas and other Jewish believers there in Antioch  
were seduced by this deceitful hypocrisy, proclaiming Grace but living  
works...not walking the talk.

Pharisaical (1 Thes 2:15-16) and not Christ-like (Eph 2:14-16)

All were hypocrites and bad witnesses of Jesus Christ to the Gentile believers in  
Antioch, examples of v4 and not Ch 1:10 and 1 Thes 2:4

"put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing  
men, but God, who tries our hearts."

Paul, standing alone fiercely uncompromising in the faith and in the truth of the Gospel, did not tolerate the hypocrisy that would be so harmful to the Church, both Jew and Gentile

He boldly, publicly confronted Peter, who was very clearly in the wrong  
Peter had received much and much was required of him by the Holy Spirit,  
speaking thru the Apostle Paul

Paul asked a question like those Jesus asked so frequently – painted the hearer into a corner from which there was no escaping the truth

“If you, a Jew, live/eat like the Gentiles rather than as a Jew  
(keeping the dietary Law), why do you compel the Gentiles to  
live/eat/keep the dietary Law like a Jew?”

Why are you saying to your Gentile brothers, “Do what I say, not what I do.”

Peter could not answer that question without declaring himself a hypocrite

And with the piercing question that renders the hearer speechless, Paul blows up the insidious gospel of “Jesus Plus works”

Paul now establishes the nature of salvation...and declares the horrifying conclusion of the “Jesus Plus works” gospel

v15-16 Knowing...not justified...justified:

The followers of Jesus Christ who were born Jews and not idol-worshipping Gentiles KNOW something that they must live before God and man and preach to the Gentiles...  
something that Peter himself also knows (Acts 10:15, Acts 15:7-11)

KNOWN: No person is justified

- declared innocent of all wrong-being and wrong-doing
- made righteous/acceptable/pleasing to the holy God by the works of the Law, by keeping the Law, because
- obedience must be perfect every day, all day
  - according to the letter of the Law (Moses)
  - according to the Spirit of the Law (Jesus)
  - in thought, word, and deed
- Matt 5:48 and James 2:10

but (a person is justified) by the faith **of** Jesus Christ

“of” is only in *TR*, the manuscripts from Antioch

vs

“in” from the manuscripts of Alexandria, home of Gnosticism (Simon Magnus)

We are justified by Jesus' faith, salvation is a work of His faith.  
By faith, Jesus laid down His will for the Father's will in  
order to defeat death for us and to set us free who  
were in bondage to death

We are not justified by our faith, salvation is not a work of our  
faith.

We did not defeat death, we did not set ourselves free

Matt 17:19-20

our measure of faith is insufficient

Matt 19:25-26

“of” says salvation is of Jesus, by His work

“in” says salvation is of man, by our works

Note: Phil 3:9, Rom 3:3, Rom 3:22, Eph 3:11-12

KNOWN:

We have believed in Jesus Christ

Given the choice to believe or not believe what God has  
said, of our free will we have chosen to believe

John 6:28-29

Heb 11:6

Reward given: eternal life, the Life of Christ,  
salvation/justification

We have chosen to invest the measure of faith we have been given  
(Rom 12:3) in Jesus Christ  
because

- justification is by the faith of Christ
- justification is not by works, keeping the Law

because

- by the works (man's to keep) of the Law is  
no one justified
- (to be developed further in the next chapter)

v17-19 sinners...build again:

Paul asks a question that every hearer of the “Jesus Plus works” gospel must ask himself/herself, causing them to examine themselves to see if they are in the (true, saving) faith

If while we seek/desire to be justified by Christ

- declared innocent of wrong-being and wrong-doing
- made righteous/acceptable/pleasing to God

we are found to be sinners

- not believing what God has said and done – the Gospel of Grace
- believing a gospel of man’s works

do we make Christ the minister of sin?

Claiming the salvation of Jesus but on man’s terms

Hiding behind Jesus Christ in our sin

“If the doctrine of the Judaizers is correct and we are justified by Jesus Plus work, then Jesus is the servant of that which condemns us as sinners.”

May it NEVER be so, No way!

There is no hiding behind Jesus, dictating our own terms of salvation!

Because

- The Law reveals my sin, it does not remove my sin
- The Law declares me a lawbreaker, a sinner dead in my sin
- The Law exposes my righteousness as a filthy rag

by the faith of Christ and my faith in Christ (v16)

- I am dead to the Law, the Law had no power over me
- I am alive unto God
- I am justified/saved by the faith of Christ Jesus Who
  - makes me alive who was dead
  - gives me His Life in exchange for my death...grace/gift in exchange for justice/wages

The Law killed me, but the Word of God died for me that I might live...  
by grace thru faith

Now, with Life and death being ultimately spiritual realities, the conclusions of

- the Gospel of Grace
- the gospel of “Jesus Plus works”



v20-21a crucified...Christ lives...faith of:

1<sup>st</sup>: the conclusion of the Gospel of God's Grace

I am crucified with Christ...sinful Self/carnal nature is nailed to the Cross with  
Jesus Christ, for there the Father put it on His Son and He bore it  
Rom 6:3-11

nevertheless I live...the condemnation of the Law (death) has no power over me  
since I am born-again of the Spirit of God by grace thru faith

yet not I, but Christ lives in me...the Spirit of Christ indwells me, making alive  
that which was dead (Rom 8:9 and 1 Peter 1:11 with Eph 1:13-14)

the life I now live in the flesh...my new life on earth as a new creature

I live by the faith of the Son of God..."of", the faith Jesus Christ exercised by  
what He did

- loved me (Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:9-10)
- gave Himself for me (Matt 20:28, Gal 1:4, John 10:17-18)
- whereby my justification/salvation was purchased and secured

I do not frustrate the grace of God...do not despise the grace of God  
Only by the grace of God do I live!  
I reject, declare as anathema, every other gospel  
Because...

v21b frustrate the grace...Christ is dead in vain:

2<sup>nd</sup>: The horrifying conclusion of man's "Jesus Plus works" gospel

If justification and righteousness (salvation) come by (man's work, keeping)  
the Law, then Christ is dead in vain...

Jesus suffered and died and was buried...for no good reason whatsoever,  
for no effect

Jesus' faith was...misplaced, empty, insufficient

Jesus' sacrifice of Himself as the Lamb of God was...worthless

The Father Who sent His Son to die as His sin sacrifice is...a very cruel  
tyrant, not Love (1 John 4:8)

The words of Jesus Christ are a lie

John 3:16

John 6:29

John 6:35 I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 8:12 I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 11:25-26 I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

We are of all people the most miserable (1 Cor 15:19),  
like dogs returning to our vomit (Prov 26:11)

EVERYTHING God has said and done is subtly, craftily undone by the gospel of  
“Jesus Plus man’s work”...hiding behind Jesus Christ while clinging to  
our sin and dictating our own terms of salvation

Therefore we know the author of this gospel is the unholy spirit

### **Application/Lessons**

Grace!!!!

Eph 2:8-9

2 Peter 3:18

KNOW!

1 John 5:7-13

Discern in these days of abounding deception

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

1 John 4:1

Stand fast in the Lord, living the life of Christ before God and man

Live the Gospel and preach the Gospel/Good News

Don’t preach the Gospel and live another gospel...hypocrisy

### **Prayer**

Come forward