

Gal.2:1-5

Standing Firm on What's Right

- the one constant theme of chapter 1 is the fact that God's acceptance of us is not based on our performance- God accepts us through faith

- but as believers, we strive to live our lives pleasing unto Him- Heb.11:6

(Faith leads to salvation and one must be saved to even begin a life pleasing to the Lord)

*this chapter will reveal several things to us:

1- a right behavior with a wrong belief- legalism (Right only in the sense of a firm stance)

2- a right belief with the wrong behavior- hypocrisy (in the sense of knowing right from wrong)

3- a right belief with the right behavior (a life pleasing unto God is found here)

vs.1- "14 years"- this was the period of time from the visit mentioned in 1:18 until the Jerusalem council in Acts 15

-Titus- a Gentile from the island of Crete (historically)

(Paul would eventually place Titus here to ordain elders for the churches- Titus 1:5)

-he accompanies Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem as a living example of the truth they claimed which was the fact that Gentiles didn't need to be circumcised in order to be saved

- Titus would become a great asset to Paul in ministry and helped with relaying letters to Corinth while Paul was in Ephesus (II Cor.7:6-7)

vs.2- "revelation"- when Paul and Barnabas returned from their 1st journey, they came back to the church in Antioch (Acts 14:26-28)

*it was revealed to them by other disciples in that area about the spread of the Judaizers

- according to Acts 15:5, this heresy started through the Pharisees

(This is the ultra conservative sect of the Sanhedrin in which Paul once belonged)

-"reputation"- this would be Peter, John, and James (Christ's half-brother)

- this term that Paul uses is one of honor (also in vs.9)

(This was a hint of sarcasm since they deemed Paul's apostleship as 2nd class)

*they could not make any such claim against these three

-"in vain"- he went up to Jerusalem to make sure they were all on the same page

- Paul knew that he would be "running" a fruitless race for no purpose if the message of the legalists was the true gospel

vs.3- "compelled"- (anagkazo) to necessitate, to drive, or to force

*Titus was living proof that circumcision and Mosaic regulations were not necessary for salvation
- he tells the Galatians this because the apostles in Jerusalem did not require Titus to be circumcised but accepted him as a brother in Christ

(This means that even the apostles that the Judaizers held in high regards rejected their doctrine)

vs.4- "false brethren"- these are the Judaizers that profess to be believers but are still dead inside
(Even though they regard Christ as Messiah, they do not understand the power of the blood)

-"unawares brought in"- (pareisaktos) the idea of this phrase is something that has been brought in through the side door or a window, sneaky

-"spy out"- (kataskopeo) a recon or examination with hostile intent

-"liberty"- (eleutheria) a living of how one should and not how one pleases, a freedom to omit things that have no relation to salvation

-"bondage"- a slave term that is used to rebuke the impossible system of works righteousness

- the Pharisees had a long commanding control over people (faith alone would end that)

- they kept people in spiritual bondage with all the rituals, rules, and regulations

*once the people were saved by Christ alone, they were no longer enslaved- 5:1

vs.5- Paul refused to budge an inch on such a crucial subject (people's eternity was at stake)

Truth- the whole future of Christianity was at stake

-Paul loved the Lord and loved the Galatians- this love is what made Paul so adamant to preach the exact truth that the Lord had given him