

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
October 9, 2011

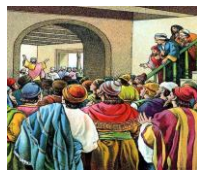
Lesson No.4

The Study of Galatians



Two Trips to Jerusalem
Galatians 2:1-21

- Paul Confronts the Jerusalem Council
- Paul Confronts the Apostle Peter



Sunday Service



10 Commandments



Teaching Ministry

Key Verse: Galatians 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

INTRODUCTION: During the 17 year time period represented in Galatians 1:18 and Galatians 2:1 Paul visited Jerusalem twice. Fourteen years represents the period of time between Paul's first trip to Jerusalem called "*the famine trip*" (chp.1:18; 2:10 and Acts 11:27-30) and his second trip to meet with the Jerusalem Council (chp.2:2; Acts 15:1-22).

Paul purposely states that God (by revelation) sent him to Jerusalem to refute any suggestions that he was not teaching correct doctrine. In chp.1:12 he introduced the subject of "*divine revelation*" and the role it played in his understanding and communicating divine truths.

- Jerusalem, also called Salem "*the city of God*" or "*the holy city*" implies a city with a foundation for peace or a possession of peace. Therefore, Jerusalem was an appropriate meeting place for Paul to find support for his grace message to the Gentiles.

Click the following title to read how the message relates to how God has spoken to men.



Bible Introduction
[The Revelation of Scripture](#)

- The Mysterious Word
- The Source
- The Spoken Word
- The Written Word

I. Paul confronts the Jerusalem Council: vv. 2-5 Paul's first trip to Jerusalem, the famine trip involved a "*public meeting*" and his second trip a "*private meeting*" with the Jerusalem Council.

- Main leaders of the Jerusalem Council: Peter, James and John "*men of reputation*" or "*pillars*" See Galatians Study Guide, Key Points of Interest, Spiritual Gift of Leadership, on page 6.
- The Judaizers "*false brethren*" taught the counterfeit message Paul referred to in chp.1:8.
- The doctrine of the Judaizers claimed allegiance to Christ, but demanded that circumcision and obedience to the Mosaic Law as prerequisites for salvation. Jesus said..... **John 7:16-24**

1. The whole matter of Paul's message of grace pivoted around this fact of circumcision. If Titus were compelled to be circumcised then it would mean the message of grace was cancelled.

- Three aspects of the Law of Moses: Ceremonial Law, Judicial Law and Moral Law. Every aspect of the Law of Moses was fulfilled by Jesus Christ.
- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth Romans 10:4.

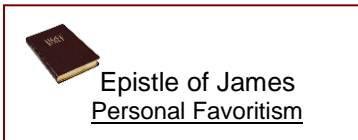
2. The conclusion of the matter: The only conclusion that Peter, James, John and the church elders could make was that the Holy Spirit was responsible for the powerful preaching of the gospel and the building of the church through Paul's efforts. Acts 15:1-35



- The right hand of fellowship represented a solemn vow of friendship and a mark of partnership.
- This act signified the apostle's recognition of Paul as a teacher of the true gospel and a partner in the ministry.

II. Paul confronts the Apostle Peter: vv.10-12 It is not clear whether this incident occurred before the Council or after. Nevertheless, while in Antioch (probably during a love-feast) Paul rebukes Peter for his desist from eating with the Gentiles when he saw friends of James arrive.

Click the following title to read how the message relates to personal preferences and partiality.



- Peter's reason for separating himself was for fearing them who were of the circumcision (the Judaizers).
- Peter's act of being double-minded reveals the power of legalism that grips a person's spirit like a terrible vice.

Legalism is an attack upon God's grace, Christian liberty and the whole fellowship of the Church.

- Fear is often the cause of disobedience to the Lord. Following Peter's lead others such as Barnabas was influenced to avoid the Gentiles. v.13
- Paul asks Peter a rhetorical question: Why do you Peter a Jew, who is not living as a Jew command Gentiles, through your giving allegiance to Judaizers, to live as Jews? v.14-15
- Jews and Gentiles alike are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. The root of man's sinfulness is his heart and not his actions. Since it is impossible for a person to keep the law from their heart, the law can not save them. vv.16-19
- When a person trusts in Christ for salvation, they spiritually participate with the Lord in His crucifixion and His victory over sin and death. v.20
- The "old inner man" of the believer has been crucified with Christ. The "new inner man" of the believer has the privilege of Christ's indwelling presence empowering him and living through him.
- Those who insist they can earn salvation by their own efforts undermine the foundation of Christianity and render unnecessary the death of Jesus Christ. v.21