

The Triumph of Christian Liberty Galatians 2:1-14

I. Paul's Visit to Jerusalem - 2:1-2

1. Returned to Jerusalem 14 yrs. later
He went with Barnabas and Titus
He went under the Lord's direction - 2
2. Paul met with the leaders
Paul's message came from God
Did not need approval of other apostles
3. He shared his message with them
He wanted them to know his gospel
What he was preaching to the Gentiles
4. Must be unity of the gospel
God's Gospel does not change
Important that apostles are in agreement
5. Met privately to discuss these issues
Paul did not want his message discredited

II. Exposing the Issue - 2:3-5

1. Point of contention on circumcision
This was sign of commitment to the Law
Some wanted Gentile believers circumcised
2. Circumcision not required for Titus - 3
Titus was a Gentile believer with Paul
3. Legalists called "false brethren" - 4
To add to grace distorts the Gospel
Their purpose; destroy liberty in Christ
Bring believers back into bondage of law
4. Paul refused to compromise on this - 5
He stood firm in defense of the Gospel

III. Evaluating His Visit - 2:6-10

1. Apostles didn't alter His message – 6-8
Legalists gave honor to Peter, James & John
Considered them true apostles
Men of reputation
Paul sees them as servants of Christ
"Chief apostles" added nothing to His gospel
2. Endorsed Paul & his message – 9-10
Knew God called Paul to minister to Gentiles
Just as He called Peter to minister to the Jews
God was at work in Paul as in Peter
Acknowledged God's hand in Paul's ministry
3. Jerusalem Apostles united with Paul - 9
James, Peter & John seen as church pillars
Realized Paul was a recipient of God's grace
Gave Barnabas & Paul right hand of fellowship
Counted them full partners in work of the Gospel
Were in agreement as a team serving Christ
One to work with Gentiles, other with the Jews
4. Only request was for poor saints - 10
Encouraged Paul to continue care for poor
Jewish believers were under pressure
Paul was committed to help needy saints
In his ministry he took offerings for these saints

IV. Confronting Peter - 2:11-14

1. Paul's confrontation with Peter - 2:11
Jew and Gentile are one in Christ
Salvation is by grace through faith alone
Law has no demands on those in Christ
2. Peter's Inconsistency - 12
Peter ate with Gentiles when he came
Withdrew after Jewish believers came
Afraid of what Jewish believers would say
3. Peter's Influence - 13
When Peter withdrew others did also
Even Barnabas got caught up in hypocrisy
4. Paul confronted Peter publicly - 14
Issue was creating division in the church
Issue was contrary to truth of the Gospel
Peter & others were adding law to Grace
One set free from law was imposing law