

**The Book of Galatians**  
**Lesson 3 - Galatians 2:1-10**  
**Gospel Living**  
**“Confirmation of the Truth”**

In the first chapter, Paul proved that his Gospel and apostleship came directly from Christ, independent of the Twelve. His readers would naturally ask, “Then what was Paul’s relationship to the Twelve and the Jerusalem church?” He answers that question in this chapter.

Fourteen years after Paul’s visit to Jerusalem, he was back to attend a council on the problem of law and grace. Paul went to this conference “*by revelation*,” that is, Christ personally directed him to go, just as He had personally given him the Gospel years before. Paul had been ministering among the Gentiles. He and Barnabas had seen many Gentiles saved and many local churches established. Now the future of the Gentile ministry was being discussed by the church leaders.

Paul met with the leaders privately, but not because he was afraid his message was wrong. He knew his message was the right one because it had come from Jesus. Rather, he met with them privately to keep out the “*spies*” and to avoid any open disagreements that would only add fuel to the fire.

Titus was with Paul, and, being a Gentile, was uncircumcised. According to the Judaizers, Titus was not even saved. But the church leaders did not instruct Titus to be circumcised. Paul concludes, this proves that circumcision has nothing to do with salvation. There were false brethren there, people who wanted to rob the believers of the glorious liberty they have in Christ. This party must have argued for Titus’ circumcision, but Paul “*beat them down*.” The group was divided: some were for legalism; some were for liberty; some were for a compromise between the two. The church today is still divided, with some teaching salvation by ritual; others insisting on mixing law and grace. The minority hold to Paul’s Gospel of the grace of God.

The conclusion of the matter was that the church leaders agreed that Paul’s message and ministry were of God, and that he should minister to the Gentiles while Peter and the Twelve ministered to the Jews. In vs. 8, Paul is careful to point out that the same Spirit who worked in Paul worked in Peter as well. Both had the same message and the same Spirit but were responsible for different areas of ministry. The council added nothing to Paul’s message, and endorsed it as well. Paul had preserved the “*truth of the Gospel*” from the lies of the enemy.

**Read Galatians 2:1-5 and answer the following questions**

1. Why do you think Paul met privately with the leaders rather than meeting in a public setting?
  
2. Sometimes we avoid conferring with others because we are worried about what they might think. Do you normally discuss your ideas and plans with others? What happens when you do or don't?
  
3. How does God speak to people today? How does He speak to you?
  
4. Apparently, the leaders in Jerusalem agreed that Titus did not have to be circumcised. Why does Paul include this information?
  
5. What did the false brothers do? (vs. 2:4)
  
6. False brothers can infiltrate the church with the intent of harming the body. (vs. 4-5). Who should take the lead in guarding against such attacks, and how can the body be protected?

**Read Galatians 2:6-10 and answer the following questions**

7. In verse 6, Paul says that "God shows personal favoritism to no man." What message should we take from this statement?

8. Paul's life reflected the grace of God. How does your life in Christ testify to God's grace?

9. Both Paul and Peter were entrusted by God to preach to specific groups. (vs.7). Who has God personally entrusted to you to preach the gospel?

10. How can local churches give the right hand of fellowship to other church's that are teaching the truth and doing the work of the gospel?

11. What is legalism? Why is it dangerous?

12. Those in Christ should be eager to preach and eager to provide for the poor. What are some practical ways that we can share God's Word and provide basic needs to the poor.

13. What impact do you think the decision of 2:1-10 probably had on the church?

## **What is Truth**

### **By Billy Graham**

Pontius Pilate asked the question, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). And many people today are asking, "What is truth?" Inside the Bible are stories of lust and hate and war and crime equal to anything that we read about in history. The Bible tells the truth. It tells the truth about God, about man, about the devil. Jesus wasn't afraid to call Satan what he is: a liar and the father of lies. Jesus said, "There is no truth in

him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44). The first time that man had to make a choice between God’s truth and the devil’s lie, he chose the devil’s lie.

When Adam and Eve rejected God’s truth and accepted the devil’s lie, that was the moment that all the troubles of the whole world began. Our sinful nature often sides with the devil’s lie instead of God’s truth, because we are sinners. We’d rather believe the devil’s lie than God’s truth.

Sin is a disease that affects the entire human race. The disease of sin is at the heart of the troubles of the world. To those involved in this dying world, Satan will come with evil’s undiluted power to deceive, for they have refused the truth which could have saved them.

God sends upon them, therefore, the full force of evil’s delusion, so that they put their faith in an utter fraud and meet the inevitable judgment of all who have refused to believe the truth and who have made evil their playfellow. God says these people deliberately forfeited the truth of God and accepted a lie. God, therefore, handed them over to disgraceful passions. They see truth as a lie, and the lie as the truth. They accept the lies of the devil.

Jesus told the truth about sin. He said, “Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, and adulteries, and all other sins that we commit.” War comes from the human heart. Family tensions and problems come from the human heart. Rebellion comes from the human heart.

He told the truth about love. God loves you. And He loves you with a love that you don’t know anything about, because there is no human love comparable to divine love.

Turn to Christ—to the truth. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). He said, “I am ... the truth” (John 14:6). Jesus did not say, “You shall know a truth” or “any truth” but “the truth.” He’s the embodiment of all truth. Jesus said, “If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). If you don’t believe that and don’t accept Christ, you will die in your sins and you’ll be lost. Jesus Christ claimed to be ultimate truth. Are you willing to face that truth?