

A True Freedom Fighter

#4 in Series: *Set Free to Live Free*

(The book of Galatians)

Galatians 2:1-10

1. Paul Goes to Jerusalem (:1-2)

¹ Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. ² It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but *I did so* in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.

➤ The Progression the Text Presents:

- The Lord directed Paul – “because of a revelation that I went up”

- Paul had companions
“Barnabas” (Acts 4:36; 9:26-31 13:1-3)

“Titus” (Titus 1:4; Gal. 2:3)

- Paul’s attitude was one of submission – “and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but *I did so* in private to those who were of reputation”

- The concern Paul had about his message – “for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.”

➤ Principles the Text Illustrates:

- Seek to always be directed by the Lord
- Maintain close companions of faith
- Be a “Barnabas” – “Son of encouragement”
- Be humble
- Seek counsel concerning your doubts
- Remain teachable

2. Paul Defends His Message (:3-5)

³ But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. ⁴ But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. ⁵ But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

➤ The Progression the Text Presents:

- The evidence Paul presents: Titus – “³ But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.”

- Paul opposes impostures – “⁴ But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.”
- The determination of Paul – “⁵ But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.”

➤ Principles the Text Illustrates:

- Our lives must be convincing to others of the message we proclaim.

Vance Havner – “The greatest evidence for Christianity, and the greatest evidence against Christianity is the same thing – it’s the life of a Christian.”

- Recognize why “error” is so dangerous.
- Have the courage to stand against pernicious (wicked / dangerous) error.
- Be convinced of the truth and don’t compromise – even for a moment...

3. The Leaders in Jerusalem Affirm Paul, His Message and Ministry (:6-10)

⁶ But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me. ⁷ But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter *had been* to the circumcised ⁸ (for He who effectually worked for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), ⁹ and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ *They only asked* us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

➤ The Progression the Text Presents:

➤ Principles the Text Illustrates:

- Seek counsel – but be guarded against seeking the approval of man...
- Recognized that the authority of any legitimate ministry is the Lord – not man.
- Look for the consistency of “the gospel of grace” before legitimizing anyone’s ministry.
- Seek and extend “the right hand of fellowship” – carefully.
- Remember “faith without works is useless” and “dead” (James 2:20, 26).