

## The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

### Paul's Presentation of His Message

Galatians 2:1-5

#### 1. Paul's Trip to Jerusalem (vs.1-2)

After Paul's conversion, the book of Acts records Paul making two trips to Jerusalem (Acts 9:23-31; 11:27-30-12:25) prior to the Jerusalem council (Acts 15) where the issue of justification by faith alone was debated and defended. Significant historical disagreement revolves around both when the book of Galatians was written and whether the activity recorded in Gal. 2:1-10 is the same as what is recorded in Acts 15:1-35.

##### A. His Timing

The majority of bible scholars who have studied this issue believe that the following account of Paul's interactions in Jerusalem are the same as those recorded in Acts 15:1-35. I believe that Galatians 2:1-10 occurred during Paul's trip to Jerusalem in Acts 11:27-30 (cf. Acts 12:25) and that Paul's public confrontation with Peter in Antioch recorded in Gal. 2:11-21 occurred before the events of Acts 15.

##### B. His Companions (v.1b)

Barnabas (Acts 4:36-47) and Titus (Ti. 1:4) were Paul's companions during this trip. Both of these men were fellow workers in Paul's gospel ministry.

##### C. His Direction (v.2a)

Paul went to Jerusalem at this time because of a revelation from God (Gal. 1:12; cf. Acts 16:9).

##### D. His Intention (v.2b)

Until this time, Paul had only briefly met and become acquainted with Peter and James, the brother of Jesus (Gal. 1:18-23), but now he was going to present the gospel message he preached to the apostles for examination.

#### 2. Paul's Interview with the Apostles (vs.2b-3)

##### A. The Location (v.2b)

It was a private discourse, not public one (cf. Acts 15:4ff).

##### B. The Participants (vs.6-9)

Peter, John, and James were all present at this meeting along with Paul and his companions.

##### C. The Verdict (v.3)

If Paul's message were found to be deficient, Titus would have been compelled to be circumcised as the Judaizers had insisted. The very fact that Titus was not required to undergo this ritual confirms what Peter had experienced earlier, that God shows no partiality on the basis of ethnicity (10:34).

#### 3. Paul's Opponents (v.4)

The Judaizers were sneaky (cf. John 10:1-10; 2 Pt. 2:1) and determined about the introduction of their teaching and the indoctrination in their theology. Whether they all understood that they were peddling a false gospel is hard to say, but they were dedicated to its dissemination and obedience.

#### 4. Paul's Motivation (v.5)

The personal note of Paul's recalling the labors through which he has gone in defense of the gospel is seen in the word "you". The fatal error of the Judaizers was one that Paul so desperately wanted save the Galatian Christians from because it amounted to bondage, and not liberation or life.