

GALATIANS

Chapter 2:1-14

the one true Gospel is for all



GALATIANS 2:1-14

- I. Return to Jerusalem (v. 1-2)
- II. Rebuke of false brothers (v. 3-5)
- III. Right hand of fellowship (v.6-10)
- IV. Rebuke of Cephas/Peter (v.11-14)

Barnabas

- Birth name was Joseph
- Levite who grew up in Cyprus/Crete
- Was called Barnabas “son of encouragement” by the Apostles
- Worked equally with Paul in preaching to the Gentiles

Titus

- Gentile Christian
- Possibly one of Paul’s early converts
- Acted as a delegate for Paul

False Brothers

- Jewish, not Christian
- May have been zealots for Jewish faith like Saul

James

- Half-brother of Jesus
- Resurrected Jesus appeared to him (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- Book of James probably first letter written in New Testament

Cephas/Peter

- Birth name Simon Barjona
- Fisherman from Capernaum
- He and brother, Andrew, were first disciples called by Jesus
- Jesus renamed him Cephas (Aramaic)>Petros (Greek)>Peter (English)
- Name means “stone”
- Entrusted to preach Gospel to Jews
- First to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10)

John

- Brother of James, third and fourth disciples called by Jesus
- Son of Zebedee
- Jesus referred to him/brother as “Sons of Thunder”
- Most likely author of Gospel of John; 1,2,3 John and Revelation
- Exiled by Romans to island of Patmos

Circumcision Party

- Judaizers (Acts 11, 15)
- Jewish zealots/ “those of the circumcision”***

Certain men from James

- Most likely Jewish Christians (possibly Judaizers) from Jerusalem sent to deliver a message from James

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

Galatians 2:1-2

But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

Galatians 2:3

Why Circumcision?

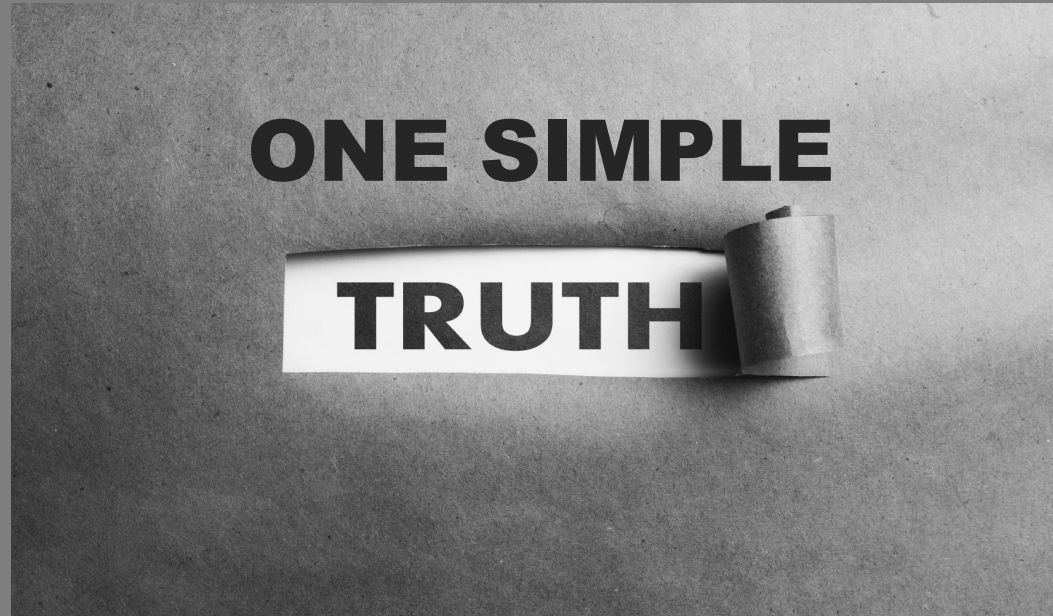
- God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14)
- Covenant could only be fulfilled by miraculous intervention by God
- All of Israel would know they owed their existence to God
- Circumcision pointed to saving work of Christ (Colossians 2:11-14)

Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—⁵ to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

Galatians 2:4-5

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”



The one true Gospel of Christ is available to everyone.

Life Application

1. Am I fully committed to knowing and defending the one true Gospel of Christ?
2. Am I asking God to circumcise or expose those areas of my heart that are not in line with the truth of His Gospel?
3. Like Peter, where is my behavior not matching my convictions?

