

IT'S A POLY - FOLLY GOSPEL - GALATIANS 2:1-5, 6-10

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. 2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. 3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), 5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Paul is concerned about:

1. Their freedom by having faith alone in Christ Jesus.
2. The integrity of the truth of the gospel being passed on.

Remember: Salvation is by God's grace, only through *faith*.

GALATIANS 2:6-10

6 But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. 7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter 8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), 9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

The Church began to grow throughout the world.

Salvations was evidence to the apostles that Paul was also filled with the Holy Spirit

He preached the true gospel: *foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* **1 Corinthians 1:18**

The gospel according to 1 Corinthians 15: **Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day and appeared to them alive.**

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

Persuasive words of human wisdom are not a demonstration of the power of the Spirit.

Do you believe these five beliefs that are the foundation of the gospel truth:

- Salvation is taught only by what the Bible teaches
- Salvation is through faith alone
- Salvation is by grace alone
- Salvation is accomplished by Jesus Christ
- God gets the glory

No matter who you are, you need the gospel, for it is God's love offered to anyone.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE OR CHURCH UNITY? - GALATIANS 2:11-19

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. 17"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

Important Point: Paul wants to keep the unity of all believers in Antioch, including Peter.

Have you heard of WWJD? I prefer WDJD - What Did Jesus Do?

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN

My past struggle with meaning and purpose:

- Why would He create us but then allow us to die?
- What kind of a God would He be if he can't create a creature that lives eternally?
- Why would he make a rule or law that says man can only live up to a certain point?

What first led me to Christ was in part the fear of death. What I learned was that I deserved it. It is impossible to be righteous and justified by my deeds. NO MATTER HOW GOOD.

That is the foolishness of the cross. It starts with death, and death brings life.

Romans 6:11a *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

FREED WITH TRUTH - GALATIANS 2:19-21

19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Truth: You can't be justified by good works and you can't be unjustified by bad works.

Important Point

You can't be Christ-like by acting like Jesus. You become Christ-like because Jesus is acting within you. This is the meaning of Galatians 2:20 and the TRUE FREEDOM we have.

That neither *death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* **(Romans 8:38-39)**

The freedom we have in Christ is to let Christ live through you and we do this BY FAITH, knowing who you are, CHILD OF GOD!

This takes faith: *"Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.* ***John 14:12-14***

Whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.' - **Acts 2:21b**

HE HAS FREED US! COME LET US WORSHIP HIM!

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
December 17-18, 2022

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