

# Paul's Proof (II)

Galatians 1: Source of gospel: Paul received it from God, independently of other apostles.

Galatians 2: Substance of gospel: Paul received same gospel as other apostles.

## Judaizers charged...

- a. Paul was not one of the original apostles  
Chapter 1 answers. [Cf. Ac.1:26]
- b. Paul's message conflicts with message of  
other apostles. Chapter 2 answers.
- c. Paul's message came from other apostles:  
'he went to Jerusalem so the real apostles  
could straighten him out.' See Gal.2:6

Paul has proven that Jesus is  
the source of his gospel (Gal.1:1, 11-12)

- a. Gal.2 – the other apostles acknowledged Paul's gospel (Gal.2 = Acts 15)
- b. If Paul is in error, Acts 15 is the time and place to expose him and to show that the twelve were Judaizers who agreed with them

# I. Details in Galatians 2:1-10

# 1: Paul went to Jerusalem

- He met other apostles as equals, not as a pupil who goes to get an education.
  - Barnabas and Titus (a test case) went with him (cf. 'others' of Ac.15:2).
  - Paul's purpose: to set the record straight.

Other apostles approved of him and his gospel – it is identical to theirs

2: Paul went up (to Jerusalem) by revelation

- Paul was already receiving divine communications. Cf. Ac.16:6-9.
  - Peter, Ac.10:19-20, 22.
  - Neither Paul nor Peter were obeying a human commandment –

Paul's object: communication  
(to Christians in Jerusalem)

2:2, "I laid my gospel before them" (cf. ESV; ASV)

2: Paul went up (to Jerusalem) by revelation

Privately ... to those who were of reputation  
(influential men) – four times: 2, 6 < 9

1. These men carried weight with some Jewish brothers – a dig at Judaizers who imply these were genuine apostles – unlike Paul
2. Name droppers. 1 Sm.16:7
3. Judaizers spouted their perverted ‘gospel’ to the group (Ac.15:5) . . .
  - Peter gave a crushing response (Ac.15:7-11)
  - Paul and Barnabas followed (15:12)
  - James concluded (15:13-21): united front
    - Exposed Judaizers: false teachers...liars



## 2: Paul went up (to Jerusalem) by revelation

1. These men carried weight with Jewish brothers
2. Name droppers.
3. Lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.
  - If apostles had buckled, Gentile churches may have been thrown into Judaizing slavery (5:1).

3: Timothy: a Jew working with Jews, Ac.16:1-3  
(Cf. Paul, 1 Co.9:19-23)

- Titus: a Greek in heartland of Jews in assembly of Jewish Christians and apostles was not compelled to be circumcised.

### Titus is Exhibit A

- It would have compromised gospel if he had been forced to be circumcised.
- The enemy lost this battle in his own citadel.

## 4: Paul is frank about church problems

1. false brethren. Misbelievers, addicted to errors (2 Co.11:26)
2. secretly brought in smuggled in, sneaked in (as if 'over the wall,' not through the door). Jn.10:1f.
3. came in by stealth...come in beside, slip in ... bring us into bondage. [Judaizers would not admit this.]
4. to spy out our liberty... Jewish spies infiltrated the church to change its beliefs. Now they have come to Galatia.
5. That they might bring us into bondage. Gal.5:1, 13. Ac.15:10.

5: Paul and others refused to compromise...

- We did not yield (cave in) even for an hour. Cf.:
  - Peter's example with Cornelius, Ac.10.
  - Paul's reaction to the Galatians, Gal.1:6-9.
  - James who quotes prophets to show agreement
- Submission, subjection: did not compromise to keep peace. [Remember 5:3]
- That truth of gospel might continue with you – truth is under attack. Cf. 1:6-9
  - Ac.15, Titus
  - Ac.16:1-3, Timothy is circum. Why? First place Paul visits: synagogue...

## 6: Outcome

- Those who seemed to be something
  - Paul: least of the apostles (1 Co.15:9) because he persecuted the church, but NOT because of inferior revelation
  - Whatever other apostles were makes no difference: no advantage over Paul because they followed Jesus during His earthly ministry
    - a. Paul received same truth they had.
    - b. Lord forgave / chose Paul as apostle...
    - c. No favoritism with Lord. Ac.10:34

## 6: Outcome

- Other apostles added nothing to Paul: they all preached same thing
  - Could we study with apostles and get nothing out of it? Paul could
  - Apostles proposed no change in Paul's work or doctrine
  - Judaizers valued these 'authorities' (Peter and others). They added nothing to Paul. They didn't even make the effort...

## 7: On the contrary...

- Far from imparting something new, they acknowledge Paul's gospel is complete.
- Gospel for the uncircumcised was committed to Paul ... but not exclusively –
  - a. Paul preached to Jews, Ac.13:14 . . . .  
Peter preached to Gentiles, Ac.10
  - b. Same message (gospel), 1:6-9: different people, Ac.15:11; Ro.1:16.

Jerusalem leaders recognized  
Paul's work as valid as Peter's

## 8: In commission and qualification . . .

### Paul and Peter are equal

1. Worked effectively in Peter to Jews – Ac.1-12, preaching and miracles
2. Worked effectively in Paul to Gen. – Ac.13-28, preaching and miracles



9: James, Cephas, John (John's first mention)  
seemed to be pillars

1. They gave Paul and Barnabas right hand of fellowship. Partnership, agreement
  - This is a greeting – 2 Jn.10-11
  - Devastating blow to Judaizers who opposed Paul...
2. 2 Pt.3:15-16, Peter minced no words...
  - Leaders of church in Jerusalem confirm Paul's claims (Gal.1) – he received his information from Lord's revelation; he is an apostle

## 10: 'We' – Paul and Barnabas

Separated after this meeting, Ac.15:36-41

1. The only request of Jerusalem apostles: remember the poor. This had nothing to do with Paul's preaching
2. His eagerness to help needy saints shows that he did not need this admonition either
  - Ro.15; 1 Co.16; 2 Co.8-9

I. Details in Galatians 2:1-10

II. Deductions From Galatians 2:1-10

1. The Jerusalem meeting cannot be duplicated.  
We cannot call a conference to decide doctrine  
– NT already decided it for us. Ac.15
2. There is only one gospel. Many clamor for a  
new gospel for a new time.
3. Message of the gospel is uniform.
4. Doctrine matters. Truth of gospel is consistent  
and unchanging – 1:6-9 – 2:2-5

5. Truth must be defended against false teachers
6. This is not a conference to make laws
7. Four of these five men who stood for truth, produced, between them, at least 21 NT books
  - a. Peter – two [1-2 Pt.]
  - b. Paul – thirteen [Ro., 1-2 Co., Ga., Ep., Ph., Col., 1-2 Thes., 1-2 Tim., Titus, Philemon]
  - c. James – one [James]
  - d. John – five [Jn., 1-3 Jn., Rev.]