

Galatians Study Questions

Galatians 1:18-2:10

¹⁸ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.¹⁹ But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.²⁰ (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.)²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.²² And I was *still* unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ;²³ but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."²⁴ And they were glorifying God because of me.

¹ Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.² And 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.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 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 might remain with you.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 circumcised⁸ (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, 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.

1. How much time passed between Paul's conversion and when he first met any of the other apostles?
2. Upon arriving in Jerusalem the first time, how long did Paul stay with Cephas (Peter)? Who else did he see at this time?
3. What point is Paul making by his statement that he "was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea"?
4. What were the churches of Judea hearing regarding Paul at this time?
5. Compare Galatians 2:1-10 with Acts 15:1-22. Be prepared to discuss these passages in class.
6. Why did Paul go up to Jerusalem the second time? Who accompanied him?
7. What important detail do we learn about Titus in this passage?
8. What did the "false brethren" sneak in to "spy out"?
9. According to the text, why didn't Paul and the others yield to the demands of the false brethren that Titus be circumcised?
10. What did those of "high reputation" contribute to Paul?
11. What was the difference between the gospel entrusted to Paul and that entrusted to Peter? Is Paul saying here that they were teaching two different gospels?