

Sermon Discussion Guide

The Gospel Prevails - Galatians 2:1-10

Guided Prayer: Pray for clarity to see the truth of the gospel, courage to stand firm against any distortion of it, and humility to walk in unity with other believers for the sake of Christ and His mission.

Recap

In Galatians 2:1-10, Paul continues defending the gospel by detailing his visit to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus. He presents the gospel to the recognized leaders that he preached among the Gentiles, not because he sought their approval, but to show that his message was in full agreement with theirs. Titus, a Gentile believer, was not forced to be circumcised, which is a testimony that salvation is not based on works of the law. Paul then warns about false brothers who sought to spy out the freedom believers have in Christ and bring them back into slavery. Yet Paul would not yield, because the truth of the gospel was at stake. The apostles in Jerusalem added nothing to Paul's gospel, but instead recognized God's grace in his ministry and extended the right hand of fellowship to him and Barnabas. Though their mission fields differed, their gospel was the same. Their one request was that Paul remember the poor, something he was already planning to do.

Understanding the Text

1. Why does Paul go up to Jerusalem, and what does this reveal about his confidence in the gospel he preached and his desire for unity in the church?
2. Why is Titus such an important example in this passage, and what does his situation teach us about salvation?
3. Who are the "false brothers" Paul mentions, and how do they threaten the freedom believers have in Christ?
4. What does Paul mean by saying he did not yield even for a moment? Why is refusing to compromise necessary to preserve the truth of the gospel?
5. Why does Paul say that the apostles contributed nothing to him? What does this teach us about the source and sufficiency of the gospel?
6. What do we learn from the difference in mission focus given to Paul and Peter? How can there be diversity in ministry while still maintaining unity in the gospel?
7. Why is remembering the poor included here, and how do acts of mercy flow out of a right understanding of the gospel?

Practical Application

1. Where are you tempted to add something to the gospel as a basis for acceptance with God.
2. What are subtle ways people distort the gospel, and how can you guard your heart against believing those distortions?
3. How can you approach a situation with love and humility when the truth of the gospel is challenged?
4. Are the people around you who you would typically not be united with, and how can the gospel move you toward unity with them?
5. What freedoms have you sacrificed for the sake of the gospel, or what freedoms can you sacrifice to further the gospel?
6. How does remembering the poor, or brothers and sisters in need, challenge the way you use your time, money, attention, and prayer?

God Has More to Say

- **Acts 15:1-11** - The Jerusalem Council confirms circumcision is not required for salvation.
- **Acts 11:27-30** - Believers respond to a coming famine by sending relief to the brothers in Judea.
- **Romans 3:28** - "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. "
- **Titus 3:4-7** - God saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His mercy.
- **Acts 10:34-48** - Peter sees clearly that God gives the Holy Spirit to Gentiles also.
- **James 2:14-17** - Genuine faith produces good works and acts of mercy.
- **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** - Paul sacrifices personal freedoms to further the gospel.
- **Philippians 3:3-9** - Paul counts his religious credentials as loss compared to the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ.