

Galatians, Free in Grace

(4) Grace Defended at the Jerusalem Council

Paul goes to Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35) to protect Grace...2:1-3

Why did Paul go to Jerusalem? 2:2 Who went with him? 2:1 *see Acts 15:1-35*

Direct revelation (command from Christ). Barnabas (recognized Jew), Titus (Gentile)

What was the first thing Paul did at Jerusalem? Why? Gal.2:2

Privately presented “his” Gospel to church leaders. Plan to settle the Grace + Law issue.

What was Paul’s fear? Was he unsure of his Gospel message? vs.2 *see 1:8-9*

Absolutely sure of the Gospel. He was afraid the Jerusalem leaders had been deceived and they would support/compromise w/Judaizers. This could damage the true Gospel.

Why would Paul even have this concern? Acts 15:24; Gal.2:4 *see Mt.13:24-26*

False teachers claimed to be officially representing Jerusalem. Tares were sprouted!

Why does Paul mention circumcision issue re Titus? vs.3 *see 6:12; 5:2-3*

That was the issue from Judaizers. Circumcision = law keeping. Titus was a test case...

Jerusalem Council: Salvation by Faith alone, Faith + Law, or 2 Gospels? Acts 15:1-35

The stage is set (Acts 15:1-5) and the debate rages on (vs.6). Who finally settles it? vs.7-8

Peter, leader of the Jerusalem Apostles, draws them all back to Cornelius, Acts 11:1-18

How had the Jewish believers reacted to Gentiles (Cornelius) being saved? Acts 11:1-3

Severe reprimand to Peter for even going into a Gentile house! Even Peter was ‘forced’!

In recounting Cornelius’ conversion, what point does Peter make? Acts 15:8-9 Two Gospels??

“God...made no distinction between us (Jews) and them (Gentiles)..” Faith= 1 GOSPEL.

How does Peter emphasize this point again? vs.10-11 *see Gal.2:9 (2 peoples, not 2 messages!)*

Don’t test God by adding Law. Jews are saved by faith through grace, just as they are.

The conclusion of the Jerusalem Council teaching...Gal.2:4-10

Who was at the heart of the Grace + Law issue? Gal.2:4 Result? vs.5 *note Mt.13:24-26*

False brothers (tares!) infiltrated to spy on our freedom! No yielding to them at all...

Was Paul’s Gospel message modified by the Jerusalem Council? vs.6-8

Nothing was changed! All recognized 1 message, 2 ministries; Peter/Jews, Paul/Gentiles

How is this confirmed in verse 9?

Peter, James and John, pillars, gave the right hand of fellowship to Paul and Barnabas.

What had been accomplished at the conclusion of the Jerusalem Council?

One church, one Gospel. Gentiles do not become Jews. Salvation by faith alone, no Law!

Why is this event important to you, personally?
