

Believers Together

Discovering the Word Series – March 28, 2023

Paul Accepted by the Apostles—Galatians 2:1–10

Open It

1. What location do you enjoy visiting?
2. If you could work in a new location among a particular group of people, where and whom would you select?

Galatians 2:1–10 (ESV)

¹Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

²I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

³But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

⁴Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—

⁵to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

⁶And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

⁷On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

⁸(for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),

⁹and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

¹⁰Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Explore It

3. On a return trip to Jerusalem, whom did Paul take along? (2:1)
4. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem? (2:2)
5. Why did Paul seize the opportunity to meet with the other apostles? (2:2)
6. What was Paul's motive in bringing Titus along on the Jerusalem trip? (2:3–5)
7. What did the "false brothers" do? (2:4)
8. How did Paul and his partners respond to the Judaizers? (2:5)
9. How did the Jerusalem leaders respond to Paul's message? (2:6)
10. How did James, Peter, and John respond to Paul's mission? (2:7–9)
11. What was the "right hand of fellowship"? (2:9)
12. What was the only thing that the Jewish leaders requested of Paul? (2:10)

Get It

13. Even though Paul asserted his independence from the apostles, how did he also show his solidarity with them?
14. In what ways do some Christians try to impose rules on others?
15. What does caring for the poor have to do with telling others about Christ?

Apply It

16. How can you express today your appreciation and respect for older Christians who have helped you in your spiritual walk?
17. What can you do to help a poor person or family this week?