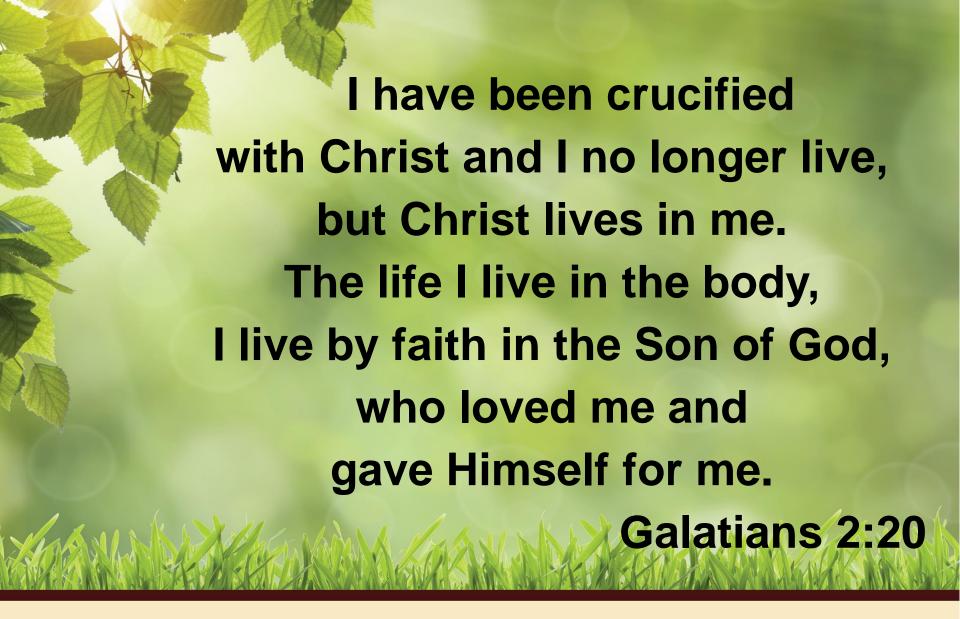


Lesson 18



Acceptance

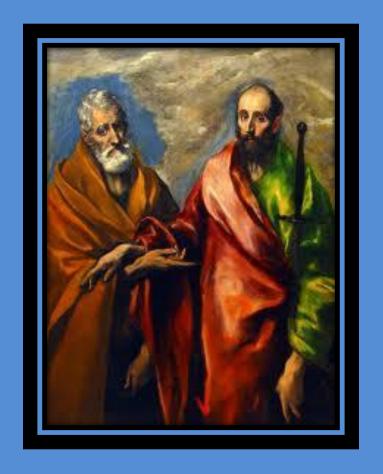


Memory Verse



GALATIANS 2:1-16

Business Trip to Jerusalem





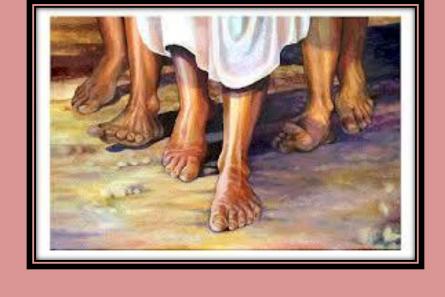
Reprimand in Antioch

Business Trip to Jerusalem

The men went to Jerusalem to meet with the Pillars

because:

God told Paul to go!



There were men entering the Gentile churches who were "undercover agents on a covert op". They were "informants" and "slave traders". They came to judge Paul and the Gentile believers' church.

Business Trip to Jerusalem

Paul's mission had far reaching implications.

Its purpose was to:

- Maintain unity between the Gentile believers and the Jewish believers. Paul was striving for unity with amazing diversity. This did not mean separate gospels for the Gentiles believers and the Jewish believers.
- 2. Tell the Pillars what Paul preached, the Truth of the Gospel which proclaimed Jesus as Lord of the *world* not

just Israel. We are freed from the bondage to the Law. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus.

The gospel is Christ plus nothing!



Business Trip to Jerusalem

Outcome of the meeting indicated that the Pillars:

- 1. Affirmed the gospel Paul preached. They gave them the right hand of fellowship as a gesture of goodwill and approval.
- 2. Acknowledged the division of labor Paul to the Gentiles and the Pillars to the Jews.
- 3. Requested that Paul and the Gentile believers remember the "poor" which referred to the Jerusalem church.



What and where was Antioch?

- Gentile city with a cosmopolitan character.
- Capital of the Roman province of Syria and 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire.
- 300 miles from Jerusalem on the Med. Sea.
- This is where followers of Christ were first called Christians.
- Peter stepped into an atmosphere different from Jerusalem.



What did Peter do to receive a reprimand?

Background: Table fellowship for Jewish believers was different from Gentile believers. Table fellowship spoke of family identity. Keeping the food laws

showed that the Jews belonged to God. Who you ate with and what you ate were important to the Jewish believers.



The incident:

1. When Jewish believers from James came to town, Peter stopped eating with the Gentile believers and ate only with the Jewish believers. He acted like a hypocrite, coward, and racist. Peter's actions

didn't demonstrate the gospel.

2. Barnabas was led astray.



So what does this mean for us?

In confronting Peter, Paul showed the following traits which are examples for us. We must:

- √ Stand which means courage
- ✓ Withstand which means self-control
- ✓ Understand which means choice. Who is your master?

-Oscar Fisher Blackwelder

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.





Applying the Lesson in Your Life



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