

# THE EPISTLE of PAUL THE APOSTLE to THE GALATIANS

## CHAPTER 2:1-10

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“A Defendable Faith”**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**IS IN FACT A QUESTION;**

HOW CAN WE (WHO ARE SINFUL BY NATURE), COME TO GOD (WHO IS HOLY BY NATURE)  
WHEN MY SINS HAVE SEPARATED ME FROM GOD AND EVEN DOMINATE MY LIFE?

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Calling, The Gospel, Assurance**

**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*Galatians 2:1-10*

### **The Summation Sentence**

The attacks against Paul and the gospel he preach was under increasing pressure. The Judaizers accused Paul of preaching a weak, easy-to-believe gospel that required no pain and effort. They looked to outward rite and ritual while Paul argued for the internal change of the heart by the Holy Spirit. Was man saved by what he did or by what he believed? That was the issue as the apostle clashed with his opponents before the leaders of the Jerusalem church. Paul battles to preserve the pure and simple gospel as reveled to him by Jesus Christ Himself. Paul believed in a:

**DEFENDABLE FAITH**

# A DEFENDABLE FAITH

1.) *It is for all of mankind*

vv. 1-2

a.) *The Gospel produces change*

v.1

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

During this time Paul and Barnabas had been preaching the gospel everywhere!

## Took Titus with me

After Paul's first missionary journey  
An attack arose from the judaizers...

**They Argued "Gentiles must first become Jews  
Before they can be saved."**

Acts 15:1-2

And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

*The Gospel produced a change*

**Titus was**

a man who had come to believe in Jesus Christ; a man born again and active in the Christian church

**Titus was**

a gentile believer

**Titus was**

uncircumcised! And had no Jewish upbringing at all

# **Titus - a non-Jew**

Gave evidence of the new life in Christ. He had been changed. He exhibited the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

## **The Legalist had nothing to Stand on**

### **Hey Judaism - Analyze This**

This is the Heritage of the Calvary Chapel movement

Those not welcomed among the legalistic judaizers found their home at Calvary Chapel.

## **A DEFENDABLE FAITH**

*It is for all of mankind*

**b.) The Gospel puts forth a directive**

**v.2a**

And I went up **by revelation**

It wasn't really Paul going to do battle for the Gospel, it was God letting Paul go with Him to the Battle.

**God stands behind His truth.**

When we are standing upon the Gospel Truth,  
we are standing surrounded by God.

When we go out to do "The Christian Thing" it had better be doing it because it is the truth in love

## **Paul's Confidence was this:**

#1 -It was the Truth

#2 - and it was God sending Paul out to declare it

# A DEFENDABLE FAITH

*It is for all of mankind*

c.) *The Gospel provides evidence*

v.2b

and **communicated to them that gospel** which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

## It was not another gospel

It had always been the gospel, the everlasting gospel, the forever gospel

\* **grk** **communicated** 394 anatithemai (an-at-ith'-em-ahee);  
to lay it out. To give a detailed account. To present a case before judge  
and jury

In a Spiritual Sense

It was - "Test Case Titus"  
(a biblical crash dummy)

## Titus was a Test Case - Could a Man be saved without being circumcised?

The Jew would argue  
"This is What was Required by God to be saved"

But God had Already Given the Gospel in the Old Testament

Genesis 15:5-6

Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

God Had Declared Abraham "Saved" and Heaven Bound  
Before Moses was ever born  
Before there the Law was ever given  
Before Abraham was circumcised

# Justification was by Faith!

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith."

## Peter Had Been Tested Also

Acts 10:9-14

The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean..."

Acts 11:18

When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

Peter, What did God Teach You?"

"You can eat what you'd like - God saves Gentiles Too"

## The Mystery

Romans 16:25

for it is God who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began...

Ephesians 3:3-6

it was by revelation that God made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 5 which in other ages was not made known to mankind, as it has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to His apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of all of God's promises in Christ through the gospel,

Colossians 1:26-27

this is the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them (those who believe) God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: (the mystery) which is Christ in you, the hope (assurance) of glory.

# A DEFENDABLE FAITH

2.) *It must exclude all human effort*

vv. 3-5

a.) *Because God Himself fulfilled the law*

v.3

Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

## But The Topic was the Issue

### Circumcision

God had required it in the Old Testament  
as a sign of relationship - set apart

It was a type, sign, an announcement

**But the reality of it - was to be of the heart**

Circumcision means something only if:

Romans 2:25-29

For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

27 And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? 28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Ephesians 2:11-14

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down **the middle wall of separation**,

## It's a matter of the heart

Colossians 2:9-12

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Philippians 3:2-3

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

## **A DEFENDABLE FAITH** *It must exclude human effort*

**b.) Because God Himself grants freedom**

**v.4-5a**

this occurred because of **false brethren** secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), 5 to whom we did not yield submission to even for an hour,

*“Legalists Fail at Understanding Doctrine, and Teach the Traditions of men rather than the Truth of God.”*

Philippians 3:18

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

2 Peter 2:18-21

For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

# **A DEFENDABLE FAITH**

*It must exclude human effort*

**c.) *Because God Himself preserves the Gospel* v.5b**

that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

The Power of the Gospel Message

## **A BELIEVER'S "POSITIONAL JUSTIFICATION" AND HIS PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION ARE TWO DYNAMICS IN CONCERT**

# **A DEFENDABLE FAITH**

**3.) *It is exactly what man needs* vv. 6-10**

## **This is a Difficult Portion of Scripture**

Paul's Emotion and Passion for spiritual things runs high here. This is not the Paul we're accustomed to. He is excited and in a fury to defend the Gospel

*It is exactly what man needs*

**a.) *Paul was not "Awed" by man – but God only* v.6a**

But from those who seemed to be something-- whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man--

## **"Our Identity and Sufficiency Is found only in God through Christ"**

# **We need this more than ever in our day**

What the world “qualifies” is not always what God Approves of.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Psalm 4:4

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.... Ps 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

## **A DEFENDABLE FAITH** *It is exactly what man needs*

**b.) Paul had preached the complete Gospel v.6b**

for those who seemed to be something  
**added** nothing to me.

**“They “approved” the Gospel that he Preached”**

**Paul was not asking for permission**

The gospel preached by me was the gospel preached by them

# Paul Faithfully Declared the Full Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

## **Verse 7-9a**

But on the contrary, when they saw that **the gospel** for the uncircumcised (gentiles) had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised (jews) was to Peter 8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the (jews) circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), 9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship

It would be wise here to point out a distinction between  
the audiences

## **Peter had preached**

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them,

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This Message was Given to a Jewish Audience in Jerusalem

## **But Paul preached**

Acts 16:30-31

And so he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."

This Message was Given to a Gentile Audience in Philippi, Macedonia

## Same Gospel - *Different Audience*

### **A DEFENDABLE FAITH** *It is exactly what man needs*

**c.) Paul knew what his mission in life was v.9-10**

that we should go to the **Gentiles** (us) and they to the circumcised (Jews). 10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

Romans 4:1-5

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

## **His Mission – Go Tell**

Galatians 3:6-8

For just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

## **Prior to Abraham Being Called by God**

There was no merit or morality worthy of God. Abraham was a lost, lonely gentile in the world...

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- It was True for Peter
- It was True for Paul and Mary
  - It was True for Abraham
- And It's true for you and I

## This is the Gospel of God

Romans 10:8-13

But what does the scripture say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

### **I PREACH TO YOU - A DEFENDABLE FAITH**

That a man can be saved, forgiven of all sin, bound for heaven and usable to God regardless of his race or upbringing. This is done by faith alone in the finished work of Jesus Christ at the cross.

Romans 4:5 amplified

But to him who does not trust in good works but rather believes on Jesus Christ who justifies the ungodly, this man's faith is thus accounted for righteousness,

Jack - Can it be that easy?

...it must be this easy