

The Gospel

Legalism



Missionary Heart

Galatians 2:6-10

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Setting

- Galatia – Roman Province
- Gentile Area – many influences, Roman Empire
- Paul – formerly Saul
 - calling: by God, unlikely, specific, clear
 - credibility: integrity, passion, faithful, confirmed
 - concern: intensity, style, language
- Friends who are being told to add something to Gospel



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Gal 2:6-10

Last Week:

- trip to Jerusalem, Paul, Barnabas and Titus
- objective – meet with known influential leaders
- clearly present what is being taught
- clearly outline the problem with “spies” & “lies”
- bring a clear object lesson – Titus
- be clear about a path forward
- be together in heading there



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Gal 2:6-10

As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favouritism—they added nothing to my message. ⁷ On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸ For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹ James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.



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1. Be Real

- easy to ‘try and be liked’, or ‘be intimidated’
- intrigue around others held in high esteem
- not disrespectful or arrogant – careful & truthful

a) God does Not judge by the External

- we see the obvious, what’s visible
 - what you wear, causes you promote, people
- God see’s the heart, motives, really there
 - what you love, why you praise, others



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2 Affirmation of the Message vs. 6

- Principles vs. Methods – key discussion
- Legalism – binding methods and principles - rules
- Liberalism – binding methods and principles – optional
- Disciples – clear on principle – flexible on methods

*Missionary Heart – clear presentation of Gospel

- desire to see it lived among culture and time
- vs. 1 – set before them exactly what I was preaching
- vs. 6 – added nothing to the message



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- significant statement – saw no need to add anything

3. Confirmed the Calling vs. 7-8

- clear to everyone Paul entrusted with a task

- Passion, Clarity, Testimony, Evidence of Fruit

- place Peter's mandate and call to Jews on the same level and significance as Paul's mandate to Gentiles

- lends both authority and confirmation

- gives great assurance – they see and affirm your call to Gentile people with gospel



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4. Renewed Support vs. 9

*Now ready to name names: Peter, James, John

a) recognized the grace given me....

- unmistakable work of God – authentic, true

b) extended the hand of fellowship

- support, encourage, celebrate – in it together

c) affirmed direction

- the who and the where established

- both matter to God, matter to us



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5. Gentle Reminder

- know it's easy to get wrapped up in what your doing

a) continue to remember

- evidence this is already something you are doing

- famine in Jerusalem, persecution of believers

- brothers and sisters suffering – in need

- poor matter to heart of God

b) keep a heart beyond your own situation

- what matters to God must matter to you



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So What

1. God Looks at the Inside

- not judged on clothes, how many friends, awards etc
- be careful what impresses you – be respectful, clear

2. Message is the Gospel

- avoid legalism and liberalism
- know Biblical truth – closed hand not for debate
- allow methods to change – time, culture, generations
- your preference will one day be offended



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3. Important to Encourage and Support

- God is at work in our world, in our community
- Gifts and Transformation evident
- Must agree to serve God faithfully – together

a) sharing resources and stories

b) affirming and encouraging faithful steps

4. The Poor Matter to God

- pray, give, go

