

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

Why is Titus uncircumcised and Timothy circumcised (Acts 16:3)?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

Although we do not place an emphasis on circumcision today, what are some examples where we place a yoke of bondage on other believers?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

How does placing authority on God's Word instead of man's word help us to correct our wrong thinking?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

When we are tempted to spy out our brothers liberty in Christ, what are some things we can do instead?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Isaiah 53:1-12

Song #197 ~ The Power of the Cross

Prayer

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 16:1-14

Song #38 ~ Across the Lands

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 17:1-19

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 2:1-5

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #225 ~ The Blood of Jesus Speaks for Me

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

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Text: Galatians 2:1-5

Theme: Justification is by faith apart from the works of the Law.

Introduction: Paul's visit to Jerusalem in Galatians 2 either refers to Paul's famine relief visit (Acts 11:27-30; AD 44-46) or the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15; AD 50). It's likely that this visit refers to the famine relief visit for 2 reasons. First, it seems unlikely that Paul would not have mentioned the famine relief visit (1:20). Secondly, the Gal. 2 visit was stirred up by a revelation (cf. Acts 11:28; contra Acts 15:2).

I) Stop placing authority on man's words (1-5).

Explanation: In these first 2 chapters, Paul is addressing a primary problem that the Galatians were having. They were placing authority on man's words (1:7). In finding the main point of a passage, we must ask what the author intended the reader to get. Paul's biography was meant to stir up the Galatians to stop placing authority on man's words.

- A. Those who distort the Gospel often add requirements that serve as a yoke of bondage (1-5).
1. Unlike those who were distorting the Gospel, Paul was willing to have his message confirmed by the Apostles (2). In contrast, the false brethren could not give a compelling reason to Titus (3).
 2. Even though the false brethren in Jerusalem are not connected to the situation in Galatia, their premise is the same (4-5). These false brethren were attempting to put Titus under a yoke of bondage by requiring him to be circumcised. This seems to be the same topic that those who were distorting the Gospel in Galatia brought up (cf. 5:1-4).

3. Throughout scripture these false teachers slip into the church and stir up issues (4; cf. Acts 15:1, 5; 2 Timothy 3:6-9; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 1:4). Let us be on the lookout.

4. What liberty is Paul talking about (4)? These false brethren were attempting to bring Titus into bondage by requiring him to be circumcised. Circumcision is clearly a conscience issue. A few years after this incident, Timothy would be circumcised (Acts 16:2). So, why is Titus left uncircumcised? In part, to show that circumcision was a conscience issue.

Explanation: Paul, in Romans 14 lays out the way in which we ought to work with other believers over conscience related issues. We ought to *accept* the one who is weak in faith because God has accepted him (14:1, 3). Within the local church, there will be some whose conscience allows them to drink alcohol, so long as they do not get drunk. While others, who are weak in faith, cannot drink any without going against their conscience. Those whose conscience allows them to drink alcohol in moderation should be careful not to cause the weak in faith to stumble (13) and go against their conscience.

- B. Those who distort the Gospel often spy out the liberties of other believers (4).
1. This passage leaves us wondering how these false brethren sneaked in and spied out that Titus was uncircumcised. Regardless of their method, false brethren look for ways to stir up controversy and cause unnecessary divisions within the church.