

Introduction: Scripture & its Implications

Many people today claim to believe the Bible while rejecting the conclusions the Bible itself requires us to draw. We hear statements like, "Jesus never talked about that," as if truth is limited only to His recorded words. Scripture, however, teaches us through both its direct statements and its necessary implications. To deny what God's Word implies is simply another way of denying the truth of Scripture.

Main Point: In a world where we are pressured to _____ the truth of the Scripture, we must be willing to _____ in Christ.

Galatians 2:1-5

- Paul describes his second visit to _____, fourteen years after his conversion. (vv. 1-3)

(1) This time he took companions along with him:

_____ : A _____ first mentioned in Acts 4:36-37 who was known for generosity and encouraging others. He had been an advocate for Paul during his first visit to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-27) and had gone to Tarsus to get him so that they might minister together in Antioch. (Acts 9:19-26).

➤ The wording here (“*with Barnabas*”) indicates that they traveled to Jerusalem as _____. That he is named implies he was likely known as one of Paul's co-workers who had helped to plant churches in Galatia.

_____ : A _____ who was likely converted during Paul's ministry in Antioch. He would go on to serve with Paul as his representative to the Corinthians and others and who was sent to appoint elders in the churches on the island of Crete (Titus 1:4).

➤ That he is mentioned as being taken “*along with*” means he served as a kind of ministry _____. He was also likely known by the Galatians either by reputation or in person.

(2) The occasion of their visit to Jerusalem was likely _____ relief.

I went up because of a revelation

➤ While it is possible that Paul had received a revelation from the Lord about the visit, his description here fits with the account in Acts 11:27-30.

(3) Paul recognized that this visit was also an opportunity to assure that there was _____ of purpose with the Jerusalem church and its leaders.

I set before them...the gospel I proclaim among the Gentiles

(though privately before those that seemed influential)

➤ This is Paul's way of _____ the Jerusalem apostles without implying that he was subservient to or dependent upon them in any way.

“in order to make sure that I was not or had not run in vain”

“His commission was not derived from Jerusalem, but it could not be executed effectively except in fellowship with Jerusalem. A cleavage between his Gentile mission and the mother-church would be disastrous: Christ would be divided, and all the energy which Paul had devoted, and hoped to devote, to the evangelizing of the Gentile would be frustrated.”

- F.F. Bruce

(4) The result of the meeting is implied in what he says about Titus.

“even Titus...was not forced to be circumcised”

- Although he had met with the leading apostles in Jerusalem, they had not placed upon their Greek companion the requirements of the _____.

Why was circumcision such a point of contention?

- It was the sign of being party to the Abrahamic _____ (Gen. 17)
- It had become a central issue to Jewish piety after the Maccabean revolt in the 2nd c. BC.
- It had become essentially a requirement for a Gentile to become a _____ to Judaism.
- It was a physical representation of _____ to the Mosaic Law more generally.

Barnabus and Titus together _____ the outworking of the Gospel that Paul preached!

Key Point: We are better able to stand firm on the truth when we are _____ than when we are _____.

- Paul then explains that this outcome was not without _____ from some. (vv. 4-5)

(1) He refers to these men as “*false brothers*”—*ψευδάδελφος* (pseudadelphos)—those who appear or seem to be brothers

In what sense are they ‘false’?

- Are they ‘false’ in that they deny the full inclusion of Gentile believers into the ‘brethren’ unless they first become as proselyte Jews?
- Are they ‘false’ in that they appear to be believers but are not?

He likely implies they are not genuine _____ because they deny to truth of the Gospel even if they acknowledge on some level that Jesus is Messiah.

(2) These men sought to ascertain the nature of Paul’s preaching and to work _____ it.
“secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus”

“so that they might bring us again to slavery”

(3) Paul defended the truth of the Gospel from these men for the _____ of the true Gospel.
“to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment”

Key Point: We cannot have true unity with those who deny the _____ of Christ’s death and the _____ of His resurrection.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

- The Galatians must resist the Judaizers and their false teaching and hold to the true Gospel even as Paul had done when confronted by them in Jerusalem.

Concluding Thoughts

1. At some point in our lives, we will be _____ to compromise the truth of Scripture.

2. The _____ to stand firm comes as we trust in Christ together and hold fast to His _____!

Phil. 1:27—Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel

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