

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jesus + _____ = Salvation?

April 2012

Lesson #4 - Galatians - FREEDOM IN CHRIST: GRACE & TRUTH

INTRODUCTION

What are the attributes of a group's ethos that might make you do almost anything to join?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 2:1-10

Note: Acts 15:1-29 gives different details of the meeting in Jerusalem. "Jerusalem did not force Paul to come to them for their official stamp of approval. God sent Paul to Jerusalem to bring unity in the mission of the church." ¹ Some scholars think Titus was Luke's brother. "The Romans sometimes killed circumcised babies and their mothers. In reaction to this brutal assault on Jewish identity, circumcision was raised to an even higher status as a sign of the election and purity of the nation Israel."⁹⁹ ²

1. Why do you think he brought Barnabas and Titus (a full Gentile) with him?
2. What was the purpose of the private meeting with the leadership first?
3. What was the discussion about Titus? Why? (vv. 3, 4)
4. How does Paul confront "spies" who believe Gentiles had to first become Jewish before they could accept Christ? (vv. 5, 6)
5. What are some examples of this thinking today?
6. How was it made clear that Paul would go to the Gentiles and Peter would go to the Jews?
7. How is the message (not the approach) different in presenting the gospel to the Gentiles (uncircumcised) and to the Jews (circumcised)?
8. What made James, Peter and John extend the right hand of fellowship? What does it mean?
9. How does the apostle's approval of Paul's message validate his claim in Galatians 1:11-12?
10. What did the leaders in Jerusalem asked of Paul? V 10 Why was that important? Rom 15:27

Note: The "poor" were probably Jewish believers. Paul's large gift from the Gentiles to the Jews in Jerusalem (2 Cor 16:1-3) shows that he took the request to heart.

11. What can we learn from Paul about how to handle conflict?

APPLICATION

- How do you feel when your beliefs are contrary to popular opinion? What can you do to make sure that you have the proper perspective?
- What arguments should you make to those who want to add to the salvation experience?

The apostles were not zealous to just protect the gospel, but also to proclaim it. To whom are you called to proclaim the gospel?

The Life Study Guide

Remember our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners [action officers] from Jesus for you. The Message 2 Corinthians 4:5

¹ Anders, M. (1999). Vol. 8: Galatians-Colossians. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (20). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁹⁹ Meyer, "Περίτέμνω," 78. See also the treatment of circumcision by J. J. Gunther, *Saint Paul's Opponents and Their Background* (Leiden: Brill, 1973), 82-89.

² George, T. (2001). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (143). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.