

# PAUL PREVAILED AGAINST THE JEWISH INFILTRAITORS

DATE: 8-7-2022

SCRIPTURE: GAL 2:1-10

REFERENCE SCRIPTURE: ACTS 15:1-22

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**Introduction:** Saul, a man of Jewish descent, a Roman citizen lived in Tarsus, He was aware of and even proud of his Jewish heritage. He boasted that he was “a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! He was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.” He received the highest possible Jewish education under Gamaliel when he was sent to Jerusalem at the age of 13 and soon became a high priest in the same city. He became one of the fiercest opponents of budding Christianity. He personally saw to it that the new converts were taken from their homes and imprisoned. He sought to wipe out new converts in other places, so he asked for letters from a high priest which authorized him to take them back to Jerusalem as prisoners. On the way to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him in a vision and told him to go into Damascus. A bright light which blinded Saul accompanied this vision and he had to be led into the city by his companions. This blindness was taken away when a man named Ananias was commanded by the Lord to place his hands on Saul. This was the start of Saul’s complete 180-degree turn from zealous persecutor to Christianity’s leading spokesman Paul.

## I. THEY’RE AT IT AGAIN (GAL 2:1-2)

**3 Years after my Damascus road experience I was compelled by the Spirit to go up to Jerusalem. Now 14 years later I have been compelled again. Remember my gospel came by not from man but by revelation from God! Will someone please read the minutes from the last meeting.(Acts 15:1-22)**

**At this time, there was a contention rising over the place of the Gentiles in the church. God used Peter to welcome Gentiles into the church in Acts 10. But some Christians from a Jewish background said that Gentiles could indeed be saved, *if* they made themselves Jews first and brought themselves under the Law of Moses. Their idea was that salvation in Jesus was only for the Jewish people, and Gentiles had to become Jews before they could become Christians. “The believing Jews, however, could not get it through their heads that circumcision was not necessary for salvation. They were encouraged in their wrong attitude by the false apostles. The result was that the people were up in arms against Paul and his doctrine**

**Knowing this contention was present, the leaders of the church in Jerusalem wanted to know what Paul taught. When he visited Jerusalem it was the perfect time to tell them.**

**Paul knew he had the true gospel. It would have been easy for him to say, “I’m right and anyone who disagrees with me is wrong, and I can’t wait to confront them publicly.” But he didn’t. He knew that being right didn’t give you the privilege of being rude. Probably it was the fear that an unnecessary conflict with the leaders of the church in Jerusalem might damage his reputation and ministry in some way. Also, the danger was that false teachers – if encouraged in some way by the leaders in Jerusalem – might undo Paul’s work in planting churches and raising disciples for Jesus, and therefore would make Paul’s work in vain**

## **II. THE ISSUE OVER CIRCUMCISION OF TITUS (GAL2:3-5,6)**

**The circumcision of Titus was a potential issue because circumcision – the cutting away of the male foreskin – was the sign of initiation into the Jewish faith and the Mosaic covenant. If a Gentile man wanted to become a Jew, he would have to be circumcised as an adult. Jewish men were circumcised as babies. Since all Jewish men were circumcised and most all Gentile men were not, it was an easy way to refer to “those who are part of the covenant” and to “those who are outside of the covenant of Moses.”**

**. “Of course, if any man was going to live a life in obedience to the law he must start by being circumcised.” “Paul did not condemn circumcision as if it were a sin to receive it. But he insisted, and the**

conference upheld him, that circumcision had no bearing upon salvation and was therefore not to be forced upon the Gentile.

**WATCH THEM DOGS: (vs 6)**

The false brethren will try to keep you in bondage but the truth will set you free.

Know that God has no respect of person. Don't let those who may be held in high esteem intimidate you for God does not show favoritism

### **III. THE LEADERS APPROVE PAUL'S GOSPEL (GAL 2:7-10)**

The leaders of the Jerusalem church accepted Paul and his ministry to the Gentiles. They approved Paul's ministry, knowing that Paul did not require the Gentiles to come under the Mosaic Law to find favor with God.

They were not only satisfied with his doctrine, but they saw a divine power attending him, both in preaching it and in working miracles for the confirmation of it: *that he who wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in him towards the Gentiles.* And hence they justly concluded *that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed to Paul, as the gospel of the circumcision was to Peter.*

The only caution from the leaders in Jerusalem was that Paul should remember the poor. In this case, these were probably the poor saints in Jerusalem, whom Gentile believers should not forget. Paul certainly did remember the poor in Jerusalem. He put a lot of effort towards gathering a contribution among the Gentile churches for the sake of the saints in Jerusalem.