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Effectual Working of God

Galatians 2:1-10

Paul was waging war for the gospel of grace. Pick the battles worth spiritually dying for. If Paul didn't fight & prevail the 1st C church might have become a Jewish sect, faction w/ message of law & grace. For me the deity of Christ-*in home 5 JW's I wanted to set them right about Jesus.*

In Ch 1 Paul is defending his apostleship against false teachers & declaring the **source** of his message '*revelation from Jesus Christ Himself*'. He goes on telling of the battle to preserve gospels authority.

*2:1 Then after an interval of **fourteen** years I went up again to **Jerusalem** with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. 2 It was because of a **revelation** that I went up; and I **submitted** to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had **run, in vain**.*

14 years after first visit to Jerusalem—*3 years in Arabia*--tutored by Lord. So 17 years. Paul concerned for integrity of gospel & unity among leaders.

Controversy w/ legalist so takes Barnabas *son of encouragement* & Titus saved **unvaxed**, uncircumcised Gentile—test to establish faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone for salvation *or will they insist on circumcision.*

Went to key leaders James, Cephaz-Peter, John to establish doctrine he preached--not some novel teaching--not want create impression he's aloof from others. **Rumors** by false brethren easily misrepresent Paul. Jews already wanted to kill him--he didn't need any more trouble. *Spurgeon-man showed up wanting to kill him-I'm his brother*

Titus presence challenged Juaizers (*headquarters Jerusalem*) **Influence** **apostles?** Titus Greek Christian uncircumcised-*what intend to do?*

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Paul was not cowering, pleading for authorization or approval **but** is there to force the issue. *Because of revelation* Grk-unveil, take the lid off, expose what before was unknown—A revelation of God's divine will.

Martin Luther “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.”

So Paul *submitted-literally* to set up or lay out or to set apart true from false

W Wiersbe--Had Paul been unwilling to wage this spiritual warfare, the church in the first century might have become only a Jewish sect, preaching a mixture of Law and grace.

Run in vain because no unity or agreement--Paul would have to part ways--be independent & preach gospel of grace as the Lord instructed him.

3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. 4 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

False brethren were *Judaizers* who taught all who believe in Christ must be circumcised & keep Jewish rituals & regulations to be saved & stay saved

Titus a test case—if coerced to be circumcised then all Gentiles must be circumcised. Jewish converts were already circumcised so issue aimed at Gentiles who were coming into fellowship w/ Jews. **Old covenant not allow.**

Certain Jews who had a superficial belief in Christ held onto old traditions and ceremonies. They were over-reliant on circumcision for righteousness. Paul explains it old covenant w/ Abraham which established them as nation but didn't save—only faith of Abraham saves. *Mouse in cookie jar.*

There were pretenders to the faith masquerading as believers who snuck in, infiltrated—to sabotage the faith—spies who **attack/criticize** our liberty.

2 Peter tells of those who secretly introduce destructive heresies.

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Secretly brought in-Under false pretenses-*illus if broke not in will of God*
'wormed their way in' Paul using words **in the world of espionage**.

During one of the Billy Graham crusades in Los Angeles some years ago, a number of Jehovah's Witnesses made false counselor badges and went in to direct people who were coming forward to receive Christ.

"They were more than spies they were **slave-traders**-to hold the church hostage to the Law. ***But it was for freedom sake that Christ set us free. Gal 5:1***

Liberty--a freedom to go where we want, free to move--in Jesus not law. Power of Christ frees from yoke of Mosaic Law & Judaizers.

Luther says: Human reason can think only in terms of the Law. It mumbles: "This I have done, this I have not done." But faith looks to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, given into death for the sins of the whole world. To turn one's eyes away from Jesus means to turn them to the Law. True faith lays hold of Christ and leans on Him alone. Our opponents cannot understand this. In their blindness they cast away the precious pearl, Christ, and hang onto their shabby works. They have no idea what faith is. How can they teach faith to others?

Freedom is not license to sin but when free, sin loses its power over us & we become slaves of righteousness. ***Rom 6:18 you were called to freedom, only do not turn your freedom into as opportunity for the flesh.***

Bring us into bondage – to enslave utterly, absolutely, completely w/o qualification. Anyone who enslaves you--devours you, consumes you, controls & takes advantage of you.

5 But we did not **yield in subjection** to them for even an **hour**, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you. 6 But from those who were of **high reputation** (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)--well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

We-Paul, Barnabas & Titus—***Yield in subjection***-did not budge—**Grk is strong**-never crossed our minds, absolute refusal to even negotiate our doctrine. Behind scenes a battle of minds & wills--**keep peace at all cost?**

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Hour as idiom-expression for very short period of time-it smallest increment of time in Greek language. Paul knew what legalism does--he lived in bondage of the law most of his life--he experienced its power to enslave

High reputation no difference to me – no disrespect--he simply establishing his own apostolic authority in light of theirs-his doctrine unmoved-add nothing

*7 But on the **contrary**, seeing that I had been **entrusted** with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised 8 (for **He** who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised **effectually** worked for me also to the Gentiles), 9 and recognizing the **grace** that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be **pillars**, gave to me and Barnabas the **right hand of fellowship**, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They only asked us to remember the poor-the very thing I also was eager to do.*

Contrary--quite the opposite of opposing or adding to, they established my teaching (**he preached for 17 years**) It same gospel they & Holy Spirit confirmed to them. **Acts 15**

Entrusted a technical term used in imperial Roman government. The apostles carried the imperial message of the gospel issued by the King of kings.

McGee says: Let's understand that there were not two gospels in the sense of Peter's gospel and Paul's gospel. These men were in complete agreement. The gospel of the circumcision and the gospel of the uncircumcision refer to the groups the gospel was going to.

Paul says *He*—person same spirit moving upon me is the same spirit moving upon Peter & working powerfully thru both. Two mission fields same message--*Effectual* is **energeo** – energy, power of Spirit that is producing results

Grace of God speaks of intimate relationship...Grace an undeserved gift-the supernatural work for salvation once saved & continuing the rest of our life. ***Grace is what everyone needs, what no one can earn and what God alone freely gives.*** First salvation, then daily sanctification **until** face to face.

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Pillars holding up a structure—the stabilizing factor for the gospel of grace

Right hand strong hand of fellowship *koinonia* —in common, joined together & belonging to Christ and each other for spreading the Gospel.

Remember or care for, keep on remembering the poor—Paul and Barnabas had done before Acts 11: 27–30

Judaea often suffered from famine & the Christians were the worst sufferers **because** of ill-will & persecution which came from unsaved Jews.

Implying a state of chronic poverty. *Poor* pictures one who cowers & begs.

W/o basic needs so forced to depend on others. Idea of being totally destitute—crouching, begging, holding out one hand for alms covering his face w/ the other. Spurgeon concludes this portion

Spurgeon--One reason God has a poor people is so that He may display more the power of His comforting promises & the supports of the gospel. “There,” says the architect, “this building is strong.” Yes, but it must be tested: Let the wind blow against it. There is a lighthouse out at sea, but it is a calm night—I cannot tell whether the edifice is firm. The tempest must howl about it, & then I shall know whether it will stand. So with religion: If it were not on many occasions surrounded w/ tempestuous waters, we would not know that the ship was staunch & strong; if the winds did not blow upon it, as they do on our poor tried brothers, we should not know how firm & secure it is. The masterworks of God are those that stand in the midst of difficulties. When all things oppose them, yet they maintain their stand, these are His all-glorious works. So His best children, those who honor Him most, are those who have grace to sustain them amidst the heaviest load of tribulations & trials. God puts His people into such circumstances, then, to show us the power of His grace.