GALATIANS
2:1-11 | STUDY GUIDE

Pillars

GALATIANS 2:1, "Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me." (ESV)

- Paul demonstrates a level of trust and respect
- Accountability clearly important to Paul
- Paul includes important details
  - He is in the company of believers
  - He meets privately (v 2) to discuss what he has been preaching and teaching away from Jerusalem, which remains the epicenter of the Christian movement
  - They are all in complete agreement

GALATIANS 2:3, "But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek." (ESV)

- Circumcision was an extremely important for Jewish identity
  - In Exodus chapter 4, God nearly kills Moses (literally) for refusing to circumcise his son: "At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death." (Exodus 4:24, ESV)
  - To be sure, Paul does not take this practice lightly, but he also recognizes that they are now living in the fulfillment of the promise
    - The elders do not disagree

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GALATIANS 2:4, "Some people who were pretending to be our brothers and sisters were brought in to spy on the freedom we enjoy in the Anointed One…" (The Voice)

- The details Paul is including are so important
  - "Spies" are trying to confuse the message of salvation
  - They are essentially telling Gentile Christians that they must become Jewish in every way in order to follow Jesus

GALATIANS 2:5, "…to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you." (ESV)

- Unity among the leaders
- Recognition of varying assignments/commissions (v 6-9)
  - Paul → Gentiles (uncircumcised)
  - Peter → Jews (circumcised)

GALATIANS 2:11, "But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned." (ESV)

- Paul's letter here takes a turn
- Peter has reneged on their unified decision
- Paul's rebuke is in love
  - Name "Cephas" given by Jesus
  - Aramaic in origin

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: N.T. Wright, Galatians, Craig S. Keener, Galatians: A Commentary, Archeological Study Bible