



Philippians 2:1–11

May 12

OVERVIEW: [Philippians](#)

CONTEXT: By Acts 10 the Gospel had come to the Gentiles. This was celebrated by the Jewish Christians in ch. 11. God was creating an enlarged New Covenant family called the Church. As Paul continued this work (chs. 13–14), between his first mission and the Jerusalem Council (ch. 15) reports reached him of a party who had gone to the Gentiles believers of Galatia insisting that they must follow the Laws of Moses to belong to the people of God, or even to be saved. Paul responded by writing this challenging, encouraging and instructive letter to the churches in the province of Galatia. Here, he appeals to the church in Jerusalem and the Apostles for the validity of the Gospel he proclaimed to assure the Galatians of its truth.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (James 2:1–13)

- What do people look to for deliverance or salvation in life? Why is this so?
- Who was the Philippian jailer? What did he look to?
- How did God work to soften his heart to prepared to receive the Gospel?
- Why was his questions so simple yet so profound?
- Why is the Gospel message/answer simple but not simplistic? What is the beauty in this?
- What fruit was produced in his life that demonstrated his faith was genuine?

READ: Gal 2:1–11

QUESTIONS:

1. *Paul has just written to the Galatians in astonishment that they are turning to a different Gospel (1:6). Gal 1:11–24 recount the authentic call of God upon Paul's life that validates his Gospel as true. Our passage today builds on that as Paul shows that the Church's validation is further proof that his Gospel is the true Gospel. After his conversion (see Acts 9) Paul went to Arabia for 3*

years (1:17) (what was he doing there?). He then went to Jerusalem (9:26) and eventually went away to his home town of Tarsus and Cilicia, which is near Syria. Here he remained for 11 or 14 years (depending how you work out the timeline in 1:18 and 2:1). He was even called upon by Barnabas to assist in the flourishing Gentile ministry in Antioch (Acts 11:19–26). Our passage adds further details to the story than those recorded in Acts 13 on Paul's calling to missionary work.

2. *V. 2- Whether to avoid teaching something that wasn't actually true or creating a separate church, Paul, at the prompting of God, went with Barnabas to Jerusalem to seek recognition over the issue at hand (i.e. was the Gospel faith in Jesus or faith + works, e.g. circumcision and other Mosaic commands).*
3. *V. 3- Why was Titus a sort of test case? What did it show?*
4. *V.v. 4–5- Paul was willing to yield to his brothers in the Gospel. **To whom was he not willing to yield? How do we recognize false Christians? How does Satan use infiltration to impede the Gospel? What was at stake if Paul had yielded to them? What false Gospels exist today that we need to oppose?***
5. **“Every religion and worldview tells you what you must do to find salvation. Christianity alone says you cannot do anything but believe to be saved.” (see Gal 2:21, 5:4). Discuss.**
6. *In v. 2, v. 6 and v. 9 Paul is expressing his opinion that he believed the three were men of reputation in the church; however, v. 6 and 7 confirms his belief that he was on equal footing as an apostle. (Click [here](#) to read the tradition of what the other 12 Apostles did). **Discuss the place of Christ's call and the Church's confirmation and commission.***
7. *V.9- What does “right hand of fellowship” mean/show here?*
8. **Why is Gospel agreement necessary for Christians partnership? (see Amos 3:3).**
9. *V. 10 represents the only direct request to Paul, something he may have also brought him to Jerusalem (Acts 11:27–30) and which Paul participated in elsewhere, Ro 15:25+, 1 Cor 16:1+, 2 Cor 8–9. This echoes the Great Commandment and wisdom of James.*

NEXT TIME: May 19, Gal 5:1–15, Freedom in Christ