



The letter to the
Galatians

The messenger of Grace	The message of Grace	The fruit of Grace
1-2	3-5	5-6
Is Paul's emphasis on grace correct?	How are the Old and New Covenants related?	Does grace discourage disciplined living?

2:1-10

GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Authenticating Paul's message

Paul was subject to other spiritual leaders.

Galatians 2

“¹ Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. ² And 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.”

- 1. He initiated contact seeking Apostolic endorsement.**
- 2. He was completely open about his ministry.**
- 3. After 13 years of ministry he was still willing to submit his message for their approval.**

Paul's resistance came from "false brethren."

Galatians 2

“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 who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. ⁵ But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.”

- 1. Paul had tangible evidence of the Jerusalem leaders' approval.**
- 2. Paul's opposition came from false brothers who had an agenda of control.**
- 3. He did not yield to the Judaizers for even a moment.**

Paul received an apostolic endorsement.

Galatians 2

“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. 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, 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.”

- 1. Leaders who were respected by all gave me their complete blessing with no additions or subtractions.**
- 2. Paul's mission was evaluated in its Gentile context.**

Was Cephas the same person as Peter?

1. John 1:42.

“He brought him to Jesus, Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).”

2. Cephas (Aramaic for “rock”) may have been a different person than the Apostle Peter.

- The early church saw them as two different people.
- The only connection comes from John 1:42
- The two individuals have different profiles.
- Paul refers to both Peter and Cephas in the same context (Gal.2:8-9).
- Cephas seems to be distinct from the twelve in 1 Cor.9:5, 15:5.

God may have touched your life if -

Your new direction does not involve personal self-interests.

Your experience involved intimate, personal, contact with God.

Your experience involved a radical direction change in life.

There is no naturalistic explanation for what you experienced.

Others see a dramatic Godly change in your life.

You are willing to subject yourself to the broader community of faith.

You get resistance from the false brethren.

You get endorsement from the orthodox leaders.

Lessons for Christian life & ministry

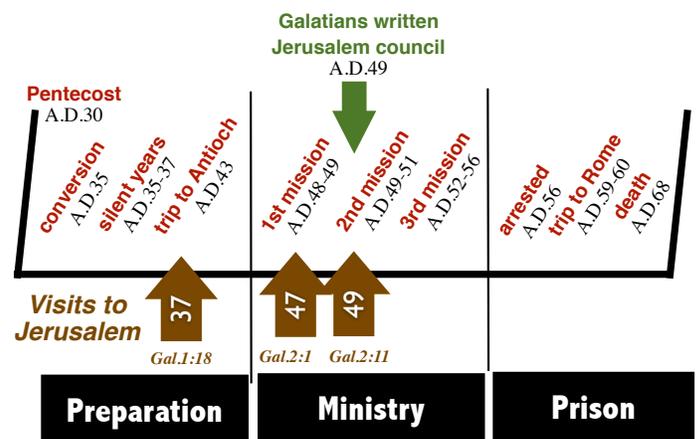
Ministries need not be long to be significant.

The church needs to prepare people to face and manage conflicts.

Christian life & ministry are not always fair, efficient, or without conflict from within and without the Christian community.

Life and ministry is a matter of managing conflict as opposed to avoiding it.

Chronology of Paul's life



Conflicts were to be expected.

2 Peter 4:12

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;”

Conflicts were to be managed graciously.

2 Peter 3:8-9

“to sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

How to manage conflict

Expect it and face it as an opportunity to develop and demonstrate Godly character.

Proceed with reason, respect, and humility.

Don't personalize the issues.

Take the initiative don't withdraw.

Be willing to listen and compromise where possible.

Keep the big picture in mind.