

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Second Timothy
Sept 25, 2024 | “Something Worth Fighting For” | **Galatians 2:1–10**

- 1) _____ the truth of the gospel
requires _____ (2:1–2)

- 2) _____ the truth of the gospel
requires _____ (2:3–5)

- 3) _____ the truth of the gospel
requires _____ (2:6–10)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Galatians 2:1–10. Who are the “pillars” that Paul describes in verse 9? Are they different than Paul? Is their authority greater than Paul? What did Paul and these pillars agree on?

Why would people in Paul’s day think that circumcision is necessary for salvation? Was circumcision required in the OT for believers? Is it required in the NT? Why or why not? Is there any advantage to being circumcised if it isn’t necessary for salvation (see Acts 16:1–5)? See the following article entitled, “In Acts 16 Paul encourages Timothy to be circumcised, then later condemns it. Was he being hypocritical?” by R.C. Sproul to explore this issue further:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/qas/acts-16-paul-encourages-timothy-be-circumcised-the>

Why didn’t Paul just acquiesce to the Judaizers who required circumcision? Wouldn’t it have been better for the early church to avoid divisiveness in this matter? How do we know when to take a stand on an issue and when to back down for the sake of unity?

GET PERSONAL

People in our day rarely state that faith in Christ plus circumcision is necessary for salvation. But we do have examples of “Jesus plus legalism” in our day that perverts the gospel. Give some examples of this.

Consider Paul’s willingness (and unwillingness!) to submit to authority in this passage. What can we learn about proper submission to authority in Galatians 2? What does Paul hold to as the ultimate authority? What authority does he ascribe to the apostles (i.e. the pillars)? Is Paul one of those apostles? Is he one of those pillars? Why is it important for Paul to be able to say, “they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me” (2:9)?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Make a list of the authorities in your life and rank them (God, scripture, government, church leaders, employers, parents, spouse, etc.). Who or what is the utmost authority in your life? What are the other authorities in your life that are underneath the higher authorities? If those authorities differ on a matter, how do you reconcile it? How do you see Paul reconciling this issue in Galatians 2:1–10?

ADVANCED QUESTION

How does Paul defend the concepts of *sola fide*, *sola gratia*, and *solus Christus* in this passage? Does being saved by faith alone mean that we aren’t expected to grow in Christ as Christians? Is sanctification necessary for salvation? Is it evidence of salvation? Could circumcision be viewed as an outworking of sanctification? Why or why not?