

Gal.2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

2:3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

2:4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

2:5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

2:6 But from those who seemed to be something-whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man-for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

2:7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

2:8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

2:9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

2:10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

January 25, 2026 Galatians 2:1-10

Sermon Title: "The Prominent Ones"

[From Today's Sermon]

After that dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, we learn from Galatians that considerable time had passed before Paul began his apostolic work. The Acts of the Apostles briefly mentions this, but it is fascinating to see what Paul valued.

"When God revealed his Son to me for the sake of the gospel to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me. Instead, I went into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Three years later I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days." ... "Then fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me also. I went up because of a revelation. And I presented to them the gospel that I preach among

the Gentiles, and personally to those who were considered important, so that my present work and my past efforts would not be in vain.“

We see that they spoke of "another gospel," and that something incompatible with the Gospel was spreading as a plausible "other gospel" – namely, the insistence that Gentiles must be circumcised. This was crucial for the growth from Judaism to Christianity. Paul stood firm on the certainty of the teaching, the truth of the gospel, striving to ensure that the teaching would never again be shaken by human error.

Introduction: Paul's Conversion and Barnabas

Acts 4:22 The man who was healed by this sign was over forty years old.

4:23 After they had been released, they returned to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said.

4:24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

4:25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of our father David, your servant: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

4:26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

4:27 Truly, Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,

4:28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predetermined to take place.

4:29 Lord, now consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

4:30 Stretch out your hand to heal the sick and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were gathered trembled, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

4:32 The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

4:34 There were no needy persons among them, for from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of the sales,

4:35 and laid them at the apostles' feet, and they were distributed to each as any had need.

4:36 A Levite from Cyprus named Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas (meaning “son of encouragement”),

4:37 sold a field he owned, brought the money, and placed it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 9:1 Now Saul was still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest

9:2 and asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

9:3 As he was traveling and nearing Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

9:4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

9:5 “Who are you, Lord?” he asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

9:6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

9:7 His companions stood there speechless, for they heard the sound but saw no one.

9:8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

9:9 For three days he was blind, and neither ate nor drank.

9:10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord appeared to him in a vision and said, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”

9:11 The Lord said to him, “Go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying.

9:12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

9:13 Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many people about all the terrible things this man has done to your saints in Jerusalem.

9:14 And here he has obtained authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

9:15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

9:16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

9:17 So Ananias went to the house and laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

9:18 Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got

up and was baptized,

9:19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus,

9:20 and immediately began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "This Jesus is the Son of God."

9:21 All who heard him were utterly astounded and said, "Isn't this the man who persecuted those who called on this name in Jerusalem? And hasn't he come here to take them captive and drag them before the chief priests?"

9:22 But Saul grew more and more powerful and confounded the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

9:23 After some days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill Saul.

9:24 But he learned of their plot. They were watching the city gates day and night, trying to kill him.

9:25 So his disciples took him by night and let him down in a basket through the wall.

9:26 When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him and did not believe he was a disciple.

9:27 But Barnabas took him under his wing, brought him to the apostles, and explained to them how the Lord had appeared to Saul on the road and spoken to him, and how he had boldly proclaimed the name of Jesus in Damascus.

9:28 From then on he joined the apostles and went in and out of Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

9:29 He often spoke and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him.

9:30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

9:31 So the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened, walked in the fear of the Lord, and was encouraged by the Holy Spirit. Its numbers grew steadily.

January has already reached its final week of worship. Snow has fallen again. This winter's snow has been heavy at times, but it hasn't lingered long, melting quickly to reveal the roads. How will it be this time?

Now, Galatians has entered Chapter 2, and we are beginning to see what that "another gospel" mentioned in Chapter 1 refers to.

2:1 Fourteen years later, I went up to Jerusalem again with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

2:2 I went up because of a revelation. I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were considered leaders—except under the shadow of the cloud—so that my present work might not be in vain.

“When God revealed his Son to me to preach among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me. Instead, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus. After that, three years passed, and I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days.”… “Then fourteen years later, I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus with me also.”

Acts chapter 9 records Paul's conversion, but it also reveals his journey of waiting expectantly for God's call for over ten years, nearly twenty years—a thoroughness that is astonishing.

1:1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead—

1:11 Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

1:12 I did not receive it from any human source, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Here we see the manifestation of his strong resolve to live solely by revelation from God, never again to be swayed by human “deceptive philosophy.”

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily,

2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every rule and authority.

2:11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.

With Barnabas. Barnabas was the faithful and compassionate benefactor who brought Paul into the fellowship; he was called “the son of encouragement.”

Ananias, who lived on a street called Straight, was also a man of good standing before God.
Acts 9:11 The Lord said to him, “Go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.
9:12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”
9:13 Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.
9:14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”
9:15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.
9:16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.”
9:17 So Ananias went and entered the house. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
There are human thoughts, and there are God's thoughts. We desire to always seek the straight path of God.

2:2 I went up by revelation, and I laid before them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of authority, lest my running now or my previous running should be in vain.
2:3 But even Titus who was with me, though he was a Greek, was not compelled to be circumcised.
2:4 This was because some false brothers had slipped in—they had slipped in to enslave us, seeking to take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus.
2:5 We did not yield to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.
2:6 And those “important people”—whatever they may have been, it makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality—those “important people” added nothing to me.
2:7 On the contrary, they recognized that just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised, so I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised.
2:8 (for He who worked through Peter for the circumcision also worked through me for the Gentiles),
2:9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who were recognized as pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship. Thus it was decided that we would go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

These “prominent men” were also pillars of the church, respected leaders among the people. Unlike those who “sneaked in to enslave us, seeking to take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus,” they did not force even a non-Jewish Gentile like Titus to be circumcised.

2:5 We did not yield to their pressure for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

The gospel of Christ is not the teaching of Judaism.

Acts 10:1 Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Regiment.

10:2 He was a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

10:3 About three in the afternoon he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him and calling him.

10:4 Staring intently at the angel, he was terrified and said, “What is it, Lord?” The angel replied, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

10:5 Now send men to Joppa and bring back a man named Simon, who is also called Peter.

10:6 He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

10:7 After the angel who had spoken to him departed, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among his attendants.

10:8 He explained everything to them and sent them to Joppa.

10:9 The next day, as the three were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray, about noon.

10:10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat. While they were getting the meal ready, he fell into a trance.

10:11 He saw heaven opened and a large sheet, like a sheet spread out, being let down to earth by its four corners.

10:12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds of the air.

10:13 And a voice came to him, “Peter, get up and eat.”

10:14 But Peter said, “No way, Lord! I've never eaten anything that's unclean or impure.”

10:15 Then the voice spoke to him a second time, “Don't call anything impure that God has made clean.”

10:16 This happened three times, and immediately the vessel was taken back up into heaven.

10:17 While Peter was wondering what the vision he had seen meant, the men sent by

Cornelius had found Simon's house and were standing at the gate.

10:18 They called out, "Is Simon, also called Peter, staying here?"

10:19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are looking for you.

10:20 Now get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

10:21 So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?"

10:22 They replied, "Cornelius, a centurion who is righteous and devout, and well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, received a revelation from a holy angel to invite you to his house and hear what you have to say."

10:23 So Peter welcomed them and lodged them at his house. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

10:24 The following day they arrived at Caesarea. Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends and was waiting for them.

10:25 When Peter finally arrived, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet, and worshiped him.

10:26 But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up. I am only a man myself."

10:27 As they talked together, they went up into the house, where a large crowd had already gathered.

10:28 Peter addressed them: "You know very well that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call any person impure or unclean.

10:29 That is why I came without objection when I was invited. Now I ask you, why did you send for me?"

10:30 Cornelius answered, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three in the afternoon, I was praying in my house. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me

10:31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been remembered before God.

10:32 Send immediately to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.'

10:33 So I sent for you immediately. Welcome! Now we are all here before God, eager to hear everything the Lord has told you."

10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "God shows no partiality,

10:35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming peace through Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

10:37 This message was preached throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached.

10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

10:39 We are witnesses of all that he did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They crucified this Jesus.

10:40 But God raised him from the dead on the third day,

10:41 and allowed him to appear to us who had been chosen beforehand as witnesses—to all the people, though not to them all. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from the dead.

10:42 And God has commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

10:43 All the prophets testify about Him, that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening.

Galatians 2:6 And from those who were considered important—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality—those who were considered important added nothing to me.

2:7 On the contrary, when they recognized that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been entrusted to me, just as the gospel for the circumcised had been entrusted to Peter,

God showed Peter that he truly understood: "God shows no partiality, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10:34-35.

Leaders. People with good reputations, respected and held in high esteem. Yet God does not show favoritism to those held in high esteem or to those who are not, to Jews or to Gentiles.

Mark 10:13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to touch them. But the disciples rebuked them.

10:14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

10:15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

10:16 And he took them in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

10:24 The disciples were astonished at his words. Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

10:26 They were even more astonished and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

10:28 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

10:29 Jesus replied, "Listen carefully: Anyone who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the gospel

10:30 will receive a hundred times as much in this present age—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields—along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

10:32 As they were going up to Jerusalem, Jesus took the lead, and they were amazed, while his followers were filled with fear. Then Jesus again took the Twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to him.

10:33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him to the Gentiles.

10:34 They will mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him. And after three days he will rise again."

10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

10:36 Jesus said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

10:37 They replied, "Grant us to sit, one at your right and one at your left, in your glory."

10:38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

10:39 They replied, "We can." Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with.

10:40 But to sit at my right or left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

10:41 When the ten heard this, they began to be indignant about James and John.

10:42 So Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

10:43 But it shall not be so among you. On the contrary, whoever desires to be great among

you must become your servant, 10:44 and whoever desires to be first among you must be slave of all. 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."10:42 Then Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Those who are "regarded" as rulers were also people of good reputation and esteem. But we desire to esteem Jesus as our Teacher in life. Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 12:3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 12:4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 12:5 You have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are rebuked by him. 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." 12:7 Endure it as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 12:8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 12:9 Moreover, if we honor our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not much more submit to the Father of our spirits and live? 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12:12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ◇ Prayer; Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship. May the truth of the Gospel always abide, and may we not be ensnared by human reasoning or our own thoughts, but keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Guide all who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our community. Use us for Your purposes. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.