

# Galatians Chapter 2

## Introduction

In **Chapter 1**, Paul has insisted that 'his gospel' is from God and that the Galatians avoid anything else which might be preached to them. See **Galatians 1:11 & 12** and read **Acts chs. 13 & 14**, especially **Acts 13:39 & 45**.

## Approval by the Apostles and Church in Jerusalem

**Galatians 2:1-10**

- v.2** Could he possibly have been mistaken?
- v.6** His message backed up and agreed by the others.
- vv.7-10** His ministry recognised.

## Law or Faith?

**Galatians 2:11-21**

**vv. 11-13** Peter led astray by fear

Peter became afraid of the religious people and started to give in to them. He had had a clear revelation from God (**Acts 10:15**) and had defended it successfully (**Acts 11:1-18**). Even Barnabas (the 'son of encouragement') was deceived into hypocrisy by fear of the religious people! They wanted faith plus religious observance, faith plus following rules.

**v. 14** Open challenge to hypocrisy

Paul says to Peter:

- a) "You are a Jew (i.e. a religious person following rules)"
- b) "You don't live by those regulations any more - you've been freed!"
- c) "Why do you put others under the same regulations?" (see **Col.2:20-23**)

**vv. 15-16** Freed from law

(still addressed to Peter)

- a) "We started out as Jews, religious people."
- b) "We now know that no-one is justified by keeping rules, but by trusting Jesus."
- c) "So we too (in spite of being religious!) have trusted Jesus - there is no other hope!"

**vv. 17-21** Building what I once destroyed

If I change direction, it proves that I either am wrong now or was wrong before!

Because I have died to law (rule-keeping) I am now free to live to God from an open heart.

See **Romans 6:11**.

**v. 20** summarises the situation. This is not a special situation for a chosen few special believers, but normal for all of us!

**v. 21** "I do not put aside/reject the grace of God." (says Paul to Peter).