### Galatians

## Chapter 2

1Then after 14 years, I finally went to JeruSalem again, taking BarNabas and Titus along with me. 2And the [only] reason why I went there then, was because of a [divine] revelation [that I’d received]!  
  
And while I was there, I explained to the prominent ones about how I’d been preaching to the gentiles… However I did this privately, for fear that somehow I’d been doing it all for nothing.  
  
3Yet, even though Titus (who was with me) was a Greek, they didn’t force him to get circumcised then.  
  
4However, they did bring in some false brothers who looked down on the freedom we have in the Anointed Jesus, and who wanted to make us their slaves.  
  
5But we didn’t give in to them, not even for an instant, so that the truth of the good news might continue among you!  
  
6And when it came to those who seemed to be important (whatever they used to be makes no difference to me, because God doesn’t go by what a man appears to be on the outside), they didn’t show me anything new.  
  
7In fact, it was just the opposite! When they saw that I’d been entrusted with the good news to the uncircumcised, as Peter was to those who are circumcised 8(since the one who gave Peter the powers of an Apostleship to the circumcised also gave me such powers for the gentiles)… 9Yes, when they came to know of the loving care that had been shown to me... James, Cephas, and John (the ones who seemed to be the pillars) gave BarNabas and I their approval to go to the nations, while they would [instead] go to the circumcised.  
  
10They just told me to remember the poor, and I’ve tried hard to do that.  
  
  
11Then when Cephas (Peter) came to AntiOch, I opposed him to his face, since I knew that he was in the wrong.  
  
12Because, before certain men who came from James arrived, he used to eat with the gentiles... But after they arrived, he stopped associating [with them] and [started acting like a Jew] in fear of those who were circumcised!  
  
13And because of this, all the rest of the Jews also joined in this ‘performance,’ even influencing BarNabas to join in with this hypocrisy!  
  
14So when I saw that they weren’t following the path of the truth of the good news, I said to Cephas there in front of everyone:  
  
 ‘If you’re a Jew who lives as the gentiles do, not as Jews do... Why are you forcing gentiles to act like Jews?  
  
 15‘For those of us who are natural Jews (not sinners from the nations) 16know that a man isn’t called righteous because of following the [Jewish] Law, but because of his faith in the Anointed Jesus!  
  
 ‘Even we had to put faith in the Anointed Jesus so we could be called righteous by our faith in him… But not by following the [Jewish] Law, for no flesh will be declared righteous by following the [Jewish] Law!  
  
 17‘Now, if we’re seeking to be called righteous through the Anointed One, and we’re still found to be sinners [under the Jewish Law]... Is the Anointed One just a servant to sin?  
  
 ‘May that never be so!  
  
 18‘But if I’m found rebuilding the things that I once tore down[, that is, the Jewish Law], this proves that I’m still a sinner!  
  
 19‘As for me, I ‘died’ to the [Jewish] Law so that I could become alive to God!  
  
 ‘20Yes, I was executed along with the Anointed One!  
  
 ‘Therefore, I’m no longer the one who’s alive… It’s the Anointed One who’s living within me. So the life that I’m now living in the flesh is being lived for the Son of God – [the one] who loved me and handed himself over for me.  
  
 21‘As a result, I’m not about to push aside the loving care of God!  
  
 ‘For if righteousness came through the [Jewish] Law, then the Anointed One died for nothing!’