

# THE LIFE EVIDENCE OF BEING GOD'S SERVANT

## GALATIANS 2:1-10

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<sup>2:1</sup> *Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.*

<sup>2</sup> *And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.*

<sup>3</sup> *But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:*

<sup>4</sup> *And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:*

<sup>5</sup> *To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*

<sup>6</sup> *But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:*

<sup>7</sup> *But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;*

<sup>8</sup> *(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)*

<sup>9</sup> *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

<sup>10</sup> *Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.*

Just the other day, in reading some emails, I came across a most interesting email...that in essence declares a great deal about life, and living. The email said, **“There comes a point in your life when you realize: Who matters, Who never did, Who won't anymore... And who always will. So, don't worry about people from your past, there's a reason why they didn't make it to your future.”** When the Lord the Righteous Judge shall appear, will he be able to look at each of our lives and declare that we were “servants of God”. When you read Paul’s letters, there is one thing that stands out above anything else...it was the fact that he viewed himself as a “servant of the Most High God”. Because he knew that in time, there were so many things that would not matter, and only those things that were done for the Lord God would be the only things that mattered for eternity. While Paul was given an assignment unlike what we may be given, the fact remains that each of us have an assignment before the Father. He went back up to Jerusalem to declare to all that would listen the “truths” he had been preaching, teaching to all that the Father would give to him that would listen. Beginning in verse 2-10, Paul unfolds the “life evidence of being a servant of God”.

### 1. A SERVANT OF GOD...COMMUNICATES AND DEFENDS THE GOSPEL TO OTHERS (v.2)

Paul had been accused and “mocked” as a false teacher and preacher for what he preached because he preached something so different from what others had heard proclaimed. Yet, Paul made no apologies for what he preached. Quite the contrary, he not only defended the message of the gospel, but communicated it to all that would be willing to listen. Since there is no way to be saved apart from the gospel, it is heavy on the heart of God that His servant, His children be open honest communicators of the gospel to others. While the ministry of Paul may have been “more expansive” than ours, the sobering truth is...all who name the name of Christ “ought” to be willing and ready to give a reason for the hope that is within them. Our children need to hear about “the Hope” that is within us. Our neighbors need to hear about the “Hope” that is within us. There are opportunities that the Father opened to Paul that he was accountable for to bear witness, and the same hopes true with us. When we refuse to communicate the gospel to those that are “open” to hear, there is a sobering accountability before the Lord Jesus in the judgment. While there will always be those that oppose the gospel of Christ, true servants of God, make it their business to relay the wonderful, good news of God’s love to their lost friends around them. Paul communicated the gospel to the Gentiles, those outside his comfort zone, for the very purpose of seeing them saved. Are you open to share the gospel to those that are lost? To a husband? To

a wife? To a son? To a neighbor? The truth is, “servants of God” do not have to be pushed, but see themselves as bound before God to relay to gospel, because of the wonderful gift of salvation they have been given.

**2. A SERVANT OF GOD...DEFENDS THE GOSPEL BEFORE FALSE BELIEVERS (vv.3-5).** If your belief in Jesus Christ was under attack, what would you say? Would you remain quiet and allow others to trample over your belief in Jesus, or would you have an answer to share with them? Paul makes it clear that “true servants” are going to be attacked. The servant may be preachers, ministers or simply a layperson, but attacks from “false believers” will come. In the life of Paul, false brethren were brought in to spy out the liberty that Paul and all the others saints were enjoying. How did Paul respond? He responded by faithfully defending the gospel of Christ. Those in Paul’s day declared that you could be a Christian after undergoing “Jewish rites and rituals”, such as circumcision. Yet, Paul defended the truth, standing on the truth that a person was made acceptable before God by “grace” and “grace” alone. To be accepted by God by grace through Christ was completely out of the norm in Paul’s day. Many believed that a right relationship with God was kept by “the law”, by “circumcision”. But Paul made it clear that the gospel is...the good news of God’s saving grace through and by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and Jesus alone. Are you willing to give an answer to others for the belief that you hold inside of you? Though others attempted to destroy Paul by discrediting his salvation and call, as well as his apostleship, God defended the very preaching of Paul. Sadly, there are always those that mix “law and grace” together. In the days of Paul these were known as Judiazers, today they go by different names. Yet, the truth of God’s Word stands firm...all are saved by the grace of God and all are kept by the grace of God. *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Gal. 2:16)*

**3. A SERVANT OF GOD...DEFENDS THE GOSPEL BEFORE ALL PEOPLE (v.6).** Those in the days of Paul were declaring that he should not be trusted, for he was a false minister. The sobering truth is that Satan does all he can to “damn” souls for eternity, and he does so by leading men and women astray from true preaching. Some were saying that Paul didn’t have the right credentials, yet Paul made it clear that He accepts no man based on credentials, but on His grace alone. Since God is the Creator of the gospel, He and He alone is the one who calls men unto Himself, and calls men unto His wonderful grace. As a servant of God, are you defending the precious gospel before those you come into contact with? Are you defending the gospel before a family member? Would the Father find you a servant of His by the way you live your lifestyle and are open to opportunities to share the gospel? Are you open with the gospel? Paul made it clear that the Father had used him in winning souls to Christ...and the same God that used Paul, uses each of us today. If you are a servant of God, then you have on your heart the lives of others to come to Christ, and one of the greatest defenses of the gospel is godly behavior in the midst of a wicked and sinful world.

**4. THE SERVANT OF GOD...WHO HAS BEEN CALLED BY GOD DEFENDS HIS SPECIAL CALLING (vv.7-10).** Paul makes it clear that he went back up to Jerusalem to declare to the apostles what he had been preaching, and they were in agreement with his message. In the life of Paul, there was ample evidence of his calling that the disciples bore witness to his calling. It was God that called Paul to preach to the Gentiles, just as God called Peter to preach to the Jews the gospel of Christ. Rather than being “opposed” to one another, God gives a beautiful scene in vv. 7-10, the apostles standing together preaching the gospel to all that would listen and to all that would hear God’s Word. It was God that used Paul in winning many of the Gentiles, and it is the same God that uses us today to bear witness to those whom He crosses by our lives with the gospel. Though we may not have the calling like Paul, the same Lord calls each of us to be His servants. As we serve Him, the Father will cause individuals to come by our lives who have “need” and “hunger” for the gospel. When a person asks of you, “Where do you go to church?”, “What do you believe?” “What do you believe about heaven or hell?”, then know this...that is Almighty God at work in their lives, for God says “NO ONE SEEKS AFTER HIM”. But as a servant of God, you can bear witness to Him and bring them to faith in Christ. If we are children of the Most High God, Jesus declares, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...” (Jn. 15:16)