

Context

1] Paul writes to church he has just planted but which others come in and added to the Gospel he preached thus nullifying it (1:6, 7)

2] He gives an autobiography - c17 years in the Gentile North -15 days in Jerusalem

3] His Gospel agreed /verified in Jerusalem by leaders James, Peter John – the teaching identical but, Paul to Gentiles, Peter etc to Jews. (2:9)

4] After 1st Missionary journey

a) Jews out with church – corrupt new churches (1:6ff)

b) Jew within Church at Antioch – Corrupt missionary church (2:4)

c) Jews from Jerusalem – Corrupt mother church (2:12)

nb the Devil's field day - all seemed lost? --- God never loses!!!

The situation (11-14)

1] Peter in Antioch (11)

Be prepared to stand for God against the greatest of men

2] Clearly wrong (cf Mark 8:33)

3] Jews from Jerusalem (12)

Cf same incident described (Acts 15:1,2a)

Nb using James name but not sent by Him (Acts 15:24)

4] used to eat

Cf Cornelius (Acts 10:15, 34ff)

5] afraid of those

(Luke 22:54-62)

6] Circumcision group (12b)

Nb gentiles -- Christians had to first become Jews / be circum. / keep the Law

7] Peter...other Jews...even Barnabas (13)

We are often led into sin by fear of what others think.

Beware 'the herd effect' as we are tempted to sin

8] *Hypocrisy of the Pharisees (Luke 12:1)*

** Beware hypocrisy of any sort.**

The 'crunch' (14-16)

1] Paul (14)

a) Confronted Peter in Public

nb 'the Truth of the Gospel' (2:5) = all one in Christ Jesus (3:28)

cf in private (2:2)

b) Nonsense. Peter, a Jew forcing gentiles to become Jews / keep Law while he was living like a gentile / not keeping Law.

Cf Jewish customs (Acts 26:3)

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you (Rmns15:9)

** There are times when you will be called to stand up 'for the truth of the Gospel'.**

2] We Jew, not gentile sinners (15)

3] 'Justified not by law but faith in Jesus' X3!!! (16)

I.e. Said with a stutter the utmost emotion / stress

Truth bears repeating – twice!!

4] Justified

Nb legal term declared righteous – opposite of condemn

5] Not by observing the Law

I.e. circumcision and keeping 'the rules'

6] by faith in Jesus

Nb Faith rooted in Jesus –

cf 'man of faith' in what...!!!

ie 16 No-one is justified by observing the Law (Rom3:20; Ps143:2) (cf Liar - John8:44)

We are set right with God by faith in Jesus.

The explanation (17-19)

1] If Christians still sin does that mean Jesus promotes/encourages sin- absolutely not (17)

Cf absolutely not cf by no means (Rom 6:2)

God's freedom definitely does not encourage our sin.

2] If (having been justified / set free for the Law) I rebuild it again (introduce laws (e.g. circumcision) I just show that I can't keep them (18)

3] Through (Jesus) keeping the Law, (with him therefore) I died to it (it has not power over me) so that (now I am free) I might live to God (19)

Cf Rom 6:1-14)

** Having the Law fulfilled in me by Jesus, I am free to live for God.**

(Therefore it can be said) (20)

1] 'I have been crucified with Jesus' (20)

I.e. I died with Jesus fulfilling all the Law's requirements

2] 'It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me' (20a)

*I.e. there is a new person with Christ living in me by His Spirit
born again (John 3:3)*

3] 'The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who love me and gave Himself for me'

I.e. I now live by faith in my saviour Jesus

God so loved the world that he gave His only Son (John 3:16)

(So...) (21)

1] I do not set aside the grace of God

I.e. – Grace is central

God's Riches At Christ's Expense. An undeserved gift.

Nb grace (1:3, 6, 15; 2:9, 21; 3:18; 5:4; 6:18)

God's grace is essential in salvation

2] If righteousness could be gained through the Law Christ died for nothing

I.e. we are set right with God not by what we do but by what Jesus has done

Nb Our righteousness is as filthy rags (Is 64:6)

21 Righteousness comes only from the death of Jesus

20/21 Jesus died for our sin freeing us to live for God

Conclusion:

1] Believe in Jesus

2] To live FREE from the Law.