

Galatians 2.15-3.5: Foolish Galatians

2.1-10: The Apostolic Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

Paul's Argument:

- It's been 14 years since he met with Peter, James, et al; He does not work under them.
- He was led by God, not summoned, to go and meet with the Church leaders at Jerusalem.
- In Jerusalem, the 'so-called pillars' of the Church fully recognized the validity of Paul's ministry.

2.11-14: The Antioch Episode

Acts 11.20-26

'The picture thus presented is that of a misguided tactical maneuver made under pressure – the action of one whose convictions were proper, but who became confused under pressure, could not bring himself to express his true convictions, and so found himself retreating from what he knew to be right' (Longenecker 75)

What of Paul's language and tone? Matthew 18.15; Galatians 6.1; 1 Corinthians 9.19-23

2.15-21: *Propositio*: The Heart of the Letter to the Galatians

Justified = *Dikaioisune*, 'just' or 'righteous' (2 Cor. 3.9, 6.14; Ephesians 4.24; Romans 5.17; 10.3-5)

'straight', 'right'

Genesis 15.5-6 (Romans 4.3): *And (God) brought (Abraham) outside and said, "Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then (God) said to (Abraham), "So shall your offspring be." 6 And Abraham believed the LORD, and (God) counted it to him as righteousness.*

The question: When Paul speaks of 'righteousness', is he describing a conferred status? Or a quality of life?

'Crucified with Christ' – responding to the invitation, or receiving the gift

Matthew 16.24; Mark 8.34; Luke 9.23:

'And Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."'

3.1-5: Foolish Galatians

Bewitched – literal or figurative? Likely means here 'to confuse the mind'

Why does Paul speak of 'receiving the Spirit' here?

Attaining perfection

What do we learn about life in the Galatian church from 3.5?