

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

Who are these people? So far in this letter, Paul has not identified them. Are they all the same group or different groups? All we know is, they are there! In Galatians 1:7 they disturb the gathering and distort the gospel! In 1:8-9 they are accursed! Over in 2:4 we see a group called false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. Is this the same bunch who disturbed the Galatian churches or someone else? Whoever they are, they just don't go away. In this lesson we will see a group described as "certain men from James" and "the party of the circumcision". Whatever is going on, another aspect, concerning this bunch, has arisen. Cephas was afraid of them!

Gal 2:11, But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

Even though faith in Christ started out relatively OK, it hadn't been a picnic for Cephas! He was flying high after the vision at Joppa. Recall Acts 10:25-28 & 34-35.

Acts 10:25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man." 27 As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled. 28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

[1.] Acts 10:25-28, unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner, **Which covenant was Peter talking about here?**

[2.] v:28, not call any man unholy or unclean. **I remember the vision Peter was referring to was about animals. Why is he talking about nationalities?**

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

Acts 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

[3.] v:34, God is not one to show partiality, What great Spiritual truth has the Lord revealed to Peter?

Then Peter goes back to Jerusalem, Acts 11:1-4, and it all starts.

Acts 11:1, Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, 3 saying, " You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,

[4.] Acts 11:1-3, when Peter came up to Jerusalem, One group recognized the work of the Spirit and another group proceeded to give Peter a bunch of flak. What was the problem that one of the groups had with Cephas?

[5.] v:4, explain to them in orderly sequence, This has nothing to do with our lesson but why is this a very admirable quality?

But Cephas couldn't rest! In Acts 12:8-10 we read, Herod mistreated those who belonged to the church. He then murdered James the brother of John. Then seeing how it pleased the Jews he threw Peter into

Acts 12:8, And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

[6.] the angel, Acts 12:8-10, Yes, an angel released Peter! But if you were Peter, how would you feel about now?

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

We know that Elijah, after many victories against the prophets of Baal, ran 300-miles from a woman and hid in a cave at Horeb. We also know that Paul wrote that, an incident in Asia, caused him to be burdened beyond strength so that he despaired even of life. So now, here is Cephas, having taken a trip up to Antioch looking for a little R & R, finds Paul getting on his case! (back to Gal 2:11)

Gal 2:11, But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

¹³ The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

[7.] Gal 2:11-12, I opposed him to his face, How did Peter's fear affect the truth of the gospel?

[8.] v:12, fearing the party of the circumcision, Why or why don't you feel these guys knew they were doing a number on Cephas?

[9.] v:13, The rest of the Jews joined him, What did these Jews see & think that made them join Peter?

[10.] As Christians how can your church, Sunday School or Bible study attendance affect others in your church?

[11.] v:14, in the presence of all, Why or why wasn't it best for others to hear what Paul had to say?

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

15 "We are Jews by nature (or Jews in Adam) and not sinners from among the Gentiles;

16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified (made righteous before God) by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

17 "But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! 18 "For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

[12.] v:15, sinners from among the Gentiles, Regarding the plight of the Gentile, before Christ, refer to Eph.2:11-12 and fill in the blanks.

un _____

sep _____

ex _____

str _____

no _____

wit _____

[13.] v:16, no flesh will be justified, How is a person justified and how is a person not justified?

[14.] v:17-18, rebuild what I have once destroyed, What does this phrase mean?

19 "For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.

Romans 7:1-4, gives a more comprehensive picture of a Christian dying to the law. Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? 2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

[15.] Rom 7:4 again, bear fruit for God, Referring to Jn 4:23-24, what kind of fruit would you expect this to be?

[16.] Gal 2:20, no longer I who live, How do I live the remainder of my life

[17.] v:20 again, but Christ lives in me, When the world sees a Christian that has Christ living in them, what should they see?

[18.] v:21, I do not nullify the grace of God, Let's go ahead and assert (like many do) that, a person will become justified by the works of the law. What does it prove about Christ's death?

[19.] Why do you suppose Paul wanted the Galatian Christians to know these facts?

to the churches of Galatia

#3, a visit from Cephas, Gal 2-11-21

NOTES