

The Gospel Tested

Galatians 2:1-10



Baptism is a response that *follows*, not a cause that *creates*, salvation.

Test case verses 1-5

I am thankful for all the sons and daughters of encouragement we have in this body. People who are quick to see what is right and good in their fellow believers, who are quick to believe for the best in others.

Paul did not fear that his gospel message was off track. But what he feared was that the fruitfulness of his message would be threatened by a false gospel that had crept into the church.

Anything added as necessary for salvation beyond grace through faith is legalism.

Christianity is not about what I do for Christ; it is about who I am in Christ. The doing follows the being.

The ceremonial laws were fulfilled in Christ. The moral laws are in place, the ten commandments, but because of Christ we have them as a way to live, not as a pathway to salvation.

Pillars

verses 6-9

“The heart of Protestant identity lies in two affirmations: justification is by faith alone (*sola fide*), and Holy Scripture is the only infallible rule for the church’s faith and practice (*sola Scriptura*).

...*sola fide* is the “what” of the Reformation; *sola Scriptura* is the “how.” The first is an object, the second a method. The first is a precious jewel; the second, the safe that protects it.”

First, the gospel brings cultural freedom.

Second, the gospel brings emotional freedom.

Fellowship

verses 9-10

We can and must accept anyone and walk with anyone who is “in Christ Jesus.” What we have in common is much more important than what makes us different.

Jesus left heaven to move in with the poor.
He loved the least, the last, and the lowest.
We are called to do the same.

- The Gospel will always be under attack.
- The Gospel must be preserved.
- Our fellowship is with *all* who are redeemed in Christ.