

# Thank God I'm Free at Last!

## Galatians 2:1-10

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**Main Truth:** Standing firm in the true gospel brings freedom.

In this passage, Paul makes three very important statements in regard to the freedom Christ gives.

**Freedom #1:** We are free from those who would try to enslave us.

*Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. <sup>2</sup>I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. <sup>3</sup>Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. <sup>5</sup>We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. Galatians 2:1-5 (New International Version)*

**Principle:** Nobody threatens those who are in slavery more than the person who truly has been reborn into freedom.

**Freedom #2:** We are free from others' reactions.

*As for those who were held in high esteem — whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism — they added nothing to my message. Galatians 2:6 (NIV)*

**Principle:** The church can allow diversity of mission only where there is unity of message.

**Freedom #3:** We are free to bring the gospel to everyone.

*On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. <sup>8</sup>For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. <sup>9</sup>James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. <sup>10</sup>All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along. Galatians 2:7-10 (NIV)*

**Principle:** Practical application of the gospel will set others free.

*Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:15-17 (NIV)*