BOOK OF GALATIANS
"The Jerusalem Council"
Galatians 2:1-10

Introduction
1. Paul systematically argues for the Gospel of grace. He is absolutely certain that his cause is right.
   3. No matter where one places the present text amongst these visits, the conclusion is the same: Jerusalem did NOT deny the Gospel of grace as Paul preached it.
   4. To support this thesis, Paul lists the incidents of this visit. Check these carefully:

1. A REVELATION. v. 2.

Paul's presence in Jerusalem was a matter of divine ordering. How marvelously God saw to it that both His message and His messenger had the support that was needed. We CAN believe that our steps are ordered of the Lord (Psa. 37:23).

2. A COMMUNICATION. v. 2.

Paul's visit to Jerusalem was not for the sake of some refresher course nor any kind of post-graduate or post-Arabian desert courses. He was there to inform others of what God was doing through him by grace. What he told related to the Gospel (vv. 2, 5, 7, 9).

3. A REPUTATION. v. 2.

There were those in the Jerusalem assembly who were men of prominence. This is not irony, but a statement of fact. Their designation as men of renown is repeated in vv. 6 and 9. Indeed, their high position as pillars only helped to point the way for
the support of Paul. Note: in the actual listing of the names of the brethren, James is placed above Cephas.

4. A RECOGNITION. vv. 6-9.
Here is a marvelous piling up of evidence to show that the Gospel of grace was never set aside by the early church. Paul avers:
a. Jerusalem added nothing to him (v. 6).
b. Jerusalem saw that the Gospel was intrusted to Paul (v. 7).
c. Jerusalem acknowledged God energized Paul as well as Peter (v. 8).
d. Jerusalem reflected on God’s grace in Paul (v. 9).
One cannot read these verses without being utterly persuaded that Jerusalem had fully agreed with the message of Paul. How then, could the Galatians not agree also?

5. A CONSIDERATION. v. 10.
There was to be no change in the doctrine of the apostle Paul, but he was urged to continue his interest in the poor. Paul affirms that he was diligent in this.

6. A RESIGNATION. v. 5.
Paul notes that his insistence on grace as an operating principle was never sacrificed. There was no notion in Paul that those who fostered legalism should be supported. Indeed, Titus was never offered as proof that doctrine is to be diluted for the sake of peace!

Conclusion

It stands forever true that Paul resisted any attempt to solutionize the pure Gospel of grace!

NOTES