Study Guide for Oct. 28th, 2001. *Sola Fide* #5 Galatians 2:1-10 Affirmation and Consensus.

1. Have you ever taken a difficult stand based on principle? What made your decision a challenge? What perspective do you have on the experience now that it is over?

2. A Second Visit.

   A. How much time elapsed between Paul's first visit (1:18) and this visit (2:1)? What seemed to be the primary purpose in this second visit to Jerusalem for Paul?

   B. Many scholars equate this visit (Gal. 2) with the one recorded in Acts 11:27-30. What seemed to be the primary purpose of the visit recorded in Acts?

   C. Note Gal. 2:10. How does this comment help explain any apparent discrepancy?

   D. Describe a time when you sensed God had multiple purposes (perhaps some you didn't expect) when you made a visit somewhere.

3. Paul and the Apostles.

   A. How does Paul describe or identify these men at . . .

      1) vs. 2: 2) vs. 6: 3) vs. 9:

   B. Why do you think Paul initially refers to them the way he does and only later by name?

   C. What did these apostles conclude about Paul and his ministry?

   D. How would you respond to someone who charges that there are contradictions between the writings of Paul and other parts of the New Testament? (see II Peter 3:14-18)

4. Paul and the False Brothers.

   A. What method did these men use? How does Paul describe their goal?

   B. From our perspective (1950 years later), what good did God bring from this conflict?

   C. Who might fit the category of "False Brothers" today? What characteristics should we look for?

5. Titus: A Test Case.

   A. How did Titus become an illustration of the truth that Paul was standing for in this conflict?

   B. How was Titus' case different than that of Timothy (see Acts 16:1-5)?

   C. What criteria do you use to know whether or not an issue is worth fighting for?

6. Reflect on these words of Martin Luther, "Now as concerning faith we ought to be invincible, and more hard, if it might be, than the adamant stone; but as touching love, we ought be soft, and more flexible than the reed or leaf that is shaken with the wind and ready to yield to everything." in the light of Paul's command to Timothy given in I Timothy 1:3-7. How do you maintain the balance?