

<b>A</b>	<b>Area of Study:</b> Gal 2 <b>Reference Materials:</b> B2/ 1-6	
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>Paul Reiterates the Apostles' Meeting at Jerusalem</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Background of the Apostles' Meeting at Jerusalem</li> <li>• Understanding how the Church uses the authority of the Apostles in deciding important issues from the Jerusalem's Apostles Meeting:</li> <li>• Based on the hierarchy established by Jesus: the Apostles received Jesus' commission to represent Him in the world; Peter is the head of the Apostles; Jesus sent forth the Holy Spirit to help them understand the truth and to guide them. Therefore, they are not relying solely on Scripture.</li> <li>• Jerusalem was where the elders were; the centre of decision-making. The church of Antioch turned to Jerusalem when the people encountered difficulties.</li> <li>• This is how the early Church operates.</li> <li>• The process of decision-making: "The apostles and the elders met together to consider" (Acts 15:6), while the final decision is made by Peter, the head of the Apostles. There is no more dispute after the decision has been made (Acts 15:12). James, the Bishop of Jerusalem, deliberates on administrative details (Acts 15:13-21).</li> <li>• The reactions of other churches: show respect and obedience to Jerusalem's decision.</li> <li>• Conclusion: Jesus established the hierarchy, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to help the Church to deal with many issues not dealt with directly in Scripture (e.g., circumcision, Arianism [the school of thought that denies the Holy Trinity], artificial contraception)</li> <li>• Paul affirms Jerusalem's ultimate authority.</li> </ul>	<p>Gal 2:2-10, Acts 15:1-35, B2/1-2          Acts 15:1-35          B2/1-2</p> <p>Jn 13:20; 17-18          Mt 16:17-20          Jn 14:25-26</p> <p>Acts 14:26 – 15:2</p> <p>Letter of Clement to the Corinthians, St. Irenaeus (attached)</p> <p>Acts 15:31</p> <p>Gal 2:2, Acts 9:26; 15:2</p>
<b>C</b>	<b><u>Research Presentation: The Major Outcomes of all Ecumenical Councils</u></b>	
<b>D</b>	<b><u>Judaizers created Division even after Jerusalem's Council</u></b>	Gal 2:3-5
<b>E</b>	<p><b><u>The Shared Responsibilities of Paul &amp; the Apostles</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "persons of authority" – James, Cephas, John</li> <li>• "it makes no difference to me how prominent they were – God plays no favorites" – nothing is more important than Jesus' Good News. One must not confuse the preacher with the truth.</li> <li>• The Jewish people will be pastured by the Apostles, while Paul takes care of the Gentiles.</li> </ul>	Gal 2:6-10, B2/5  NJBC 47:17 NJBC 47:17
<b>F</b>	<p><b><u>The Incident at Antioch</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter's hypocrisy has a deep impact and cannot be left uncorrected.</li> <li>• People say, "The Popes also made some mistakes. Thus people</li> </ul>	Gal 2:11-14, B2/6  <b><u>Jesus, Peter &amp; the Keys</u></b> , p 207

	<p>should challenge the claim that truth can be preserved by the Church, which is only a human-made structure.” No, we rely not on the Church but on Jesus’ promise – the gates of hell will never defeat it – and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter’s behavior is understandable from the pastoral viewpoint. Paul also has made similar compromise.</li> </ul>	Acts 16:13; 21-24
<b>G</b>	<p><b><u>Justification is not a result of obeying the law but relied on Faith</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let’s explore briefly the idea of justification, then discuss the related theology in the next session.</li> <li>• If early believers still believed in justification by law, they are denying Jesus’ redemptive grace.</li> <li>• “But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor.” - If I nullify the law but recognize it as the guideline for behavior, then I am a transgressor because I discard something that is good.</li> <li>• “For through the law I died to the law” - The law puts Jesus to death, therefore, Jesus has died to the law. If I die with Jesus, I die to the law also.</li> </ul>	<p>B2/3-4, §2/6</p> <p>St. Thomas Aquinas, B2/4 Gal 2:18, NJBC47:20</p> <p>Gal 2:19</p>
<b>H</b>	<p><b><u>“My Life is no long mine”</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our life must be sacramental so that every bit of our lives is like a poetry that praises God.</li> <li>• If Jesus is not in you, you have no life.</li> </ul>	Jn 15:5
<b>I</b>	<p><b><u>Conclusion</u></b></p> <p>From this chapter, you have learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As today’s Church, the early Church is based on the hierarchy established by Jesus. Important issues are being decided by the authority of the Apostles and their successors.</li> <li>• As the local churches had turned to Jerusalem for advice; today’s local churches also obey Rome.</li> <li>• As discussions were carried out by the Apostles and Bishops and the final decision was made by Peter, their leader; the Cardinals also meet in councils to discuss important issues and the Pope will give approval to the final decision.</li> <li>• Don’t rely on Scripture solely. Scriptures do not, and cannot possibly explain many important moral issues. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has established the Church to pasture His sheep faithfully by using both Scripture and Holy Tradition to deal with these issues.</li> <li>• The important outcomes of all the Councils.</li> <li>• A preliminary understanding of the teaching that “justification does not come through the law but faith”.</li> </ul>	