



Freedom

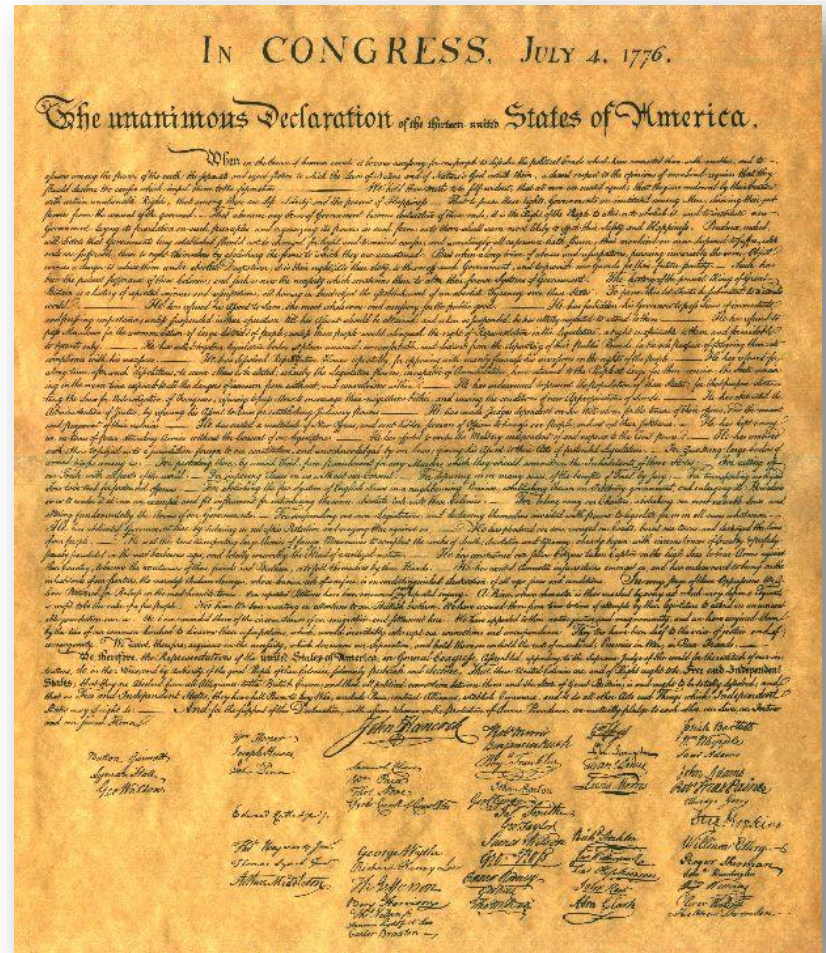
Galatians 2:1-14



Signing the Declaration of
Independence

The Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Romans 8:21 KJV

*Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the **glorious liberty** of the children of God.*

*A good deal of Galatians hinges on the fact that circumcision was the key issue, almost to the point of obsession, in the churches where Gentiles had become members, including of course the churches founded by Paul himself. **It was all a question of identity, of knowing not only who you were yourself but who else belonged in your group, your tribe, your ethnic family.***

(N.T. Wright, Paul For Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians, p. 14)

Galatians 2:1-2 NIV

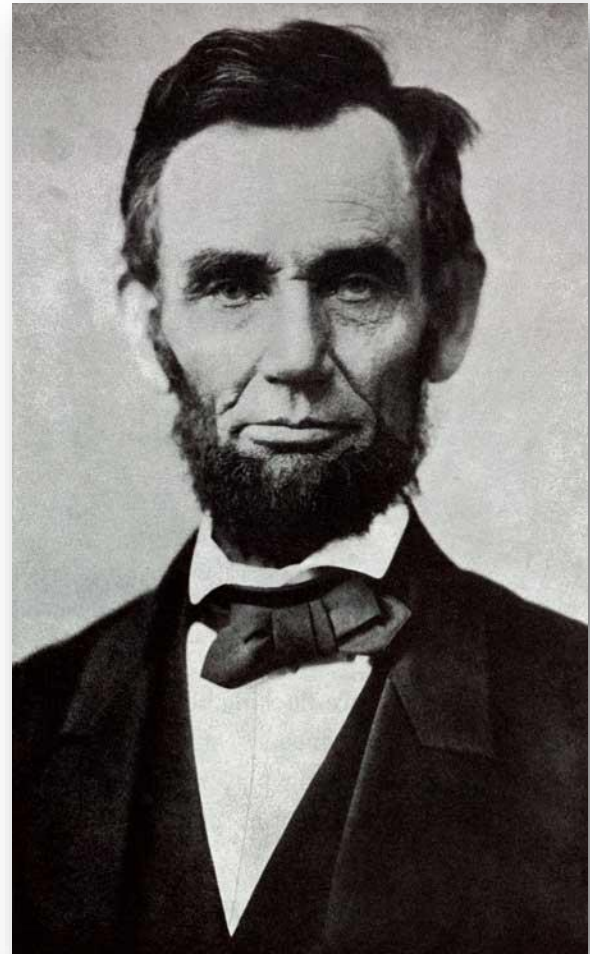
Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.

Galatians 2:3-5 NIV

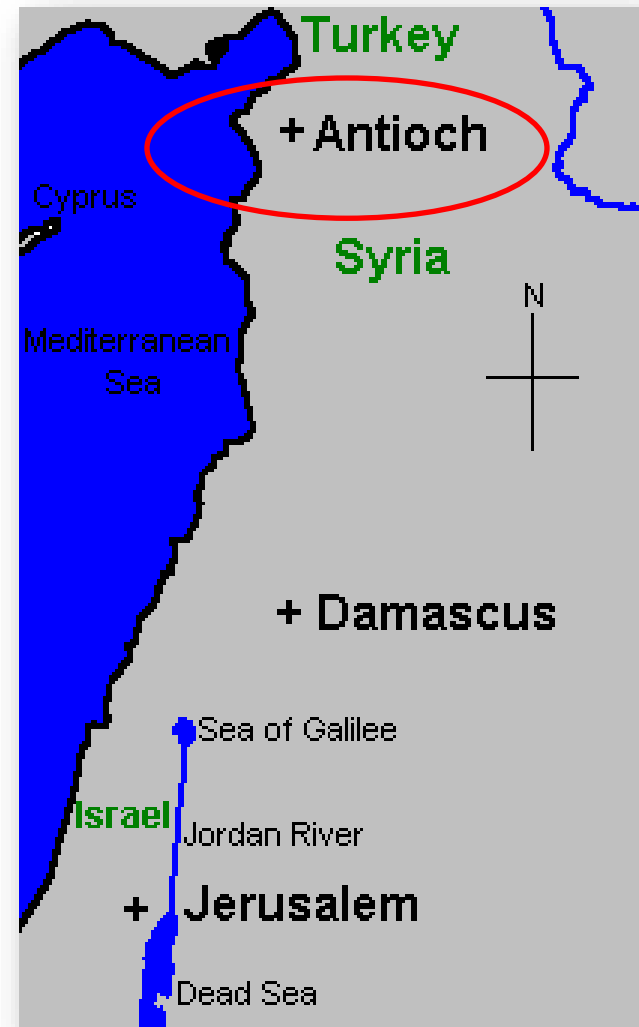
Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

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. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

“—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”



Antioch



Galatians 2:11-13 NIV

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Galatians 2:14 NIV

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

