

## Spies, Critics and Helpers

### Description

[RG AUDIO 030515](#)

Galatians 2:1-10

Paul, the apostle, made a painful discovery: some spies “infiltrate our ranks.” They were not members of a rival party. They worshiped the same God, sang the same hymns and read the same scriptures. In their interpretation, however, Paul’s theology “had it all wrong,” because he did not run things as others did and he dared to include the wrong type of people in the fellowship of believers. They could not stand Gentiles!

Critics play the role of spies, but they do not wear disguises or secret recording devices. They like to confront—“say it like it is.” Sometimes, they even resort to strategies of shame, embarrassment, even punishing those whom they disapprove.

The hurt and distraction caused by spies and critics had the potential to destroy Paul’s ministry. “We did not give in to them for a moment!” He had a secret weapon, the helpers. God has many who encourage His servants, support congregations, advance the Faith and extend to all “the truth of the gospel.” Thank heaven you are a helper!

Author: Jorge De Barros

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