

## Enduring Word -

# Titus Did Not Observe Which Jewish Rite?

From: [enduringword.com/bible-commentary/galatians-2/](http://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/galatians-2/)

### 04 Galatians Lesson: Chapter 2, Question 4

For a better understanding of this verse, try reading it out of different Bible versions.

#### **Galatians 2:3**

*But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. (ESV)*

*But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. (KJV)*

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

*Titus was with me. Even being a Greek, he did not have to go through the religious act of becoming a Jew. (NLT)*

*Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. (NKJV)*

Paul's point is that the leadership in Jerusalem accepted Titus (a Gentile convert) even though he was not circumcised in accord with the Mosaic Law. This shows that the Jerusalem leadership accepted the gospel of grace as Paul understood it.

The circumcision of Titus was a potential issue because circumcision – the cutting away of the male foreskin – was the sign of initiation into the Jewish faith and the Mosaic covenant. If a Gentile man wanted to become a Jew, he would have to be circumcised as an adult. Jewish men were circumcised as babies. Since all Jewish men were circumcised and most all Gentile men were not, it was an easy way to refer to “those who are part of the covenant” and to “those who are outside of the covenant of Moses.”