

Justification By Faith

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GALATIANS 2:1-21

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction:

How were you saved? What did you do to inherit eternal life? Salvation is by grace through faith alone. Or, are there additional works that must be performed to assist in obtaining salvation in Jesus Christ?

In Chapter One, Paul defends his apostleship, stating that his apostleship did not originate from other apostles or any church group. Then in 2:12, Paul states that

after fourteen years, he went up again to Jerusalem, accompanied by Barnabas and Titus. Paul mentions that he went there because of a revelation from God. When the Apostles heard of Paul's preaching to Gentiles, they glorified God. But they did not compel Titus, a Greek, to be circumcised.

The problem came when false brethren came secretly into the Judean church "to spy out" Paul's liberty and bring under bondage. In 2:5, they did not yield to them. Instead, the church leadership extended Paul the right hand of fellowship (2:9).

In 2:11-19, Paul openly rebuked Peter in a church dinner in Antioch. The problem came when Jews from James came. Peter began excusing himself from the Gentiles, joining the Jewish dinner table (2:12). This affected many in attendance, even Barnabas. In essence this implied that Peter preferred the company of true Judaism to that of heathen gentiles. Paul's rebuttal to Peter was very clear and strong.

In 2:20-21 Paul made perfectly clear his allegiance to the work of Christ on the cross. He refused to say or do anything that could compromise this message.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Galatians 2:1-4, 9, 11-14,; 16; 19-20 (NASB)

- ¹ Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.
- ² It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I *did so* in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.
- ³ But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
- ⁴ But *it was* because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.
- ⁹ and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
- ¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.
- ¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.
- ¹³ The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.
- ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"
- ¹⁶ "nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.
- ¹⁹ "For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.
- ²⁰ "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
