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Freedom To Live For Christ

Galatians 2:1-10

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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

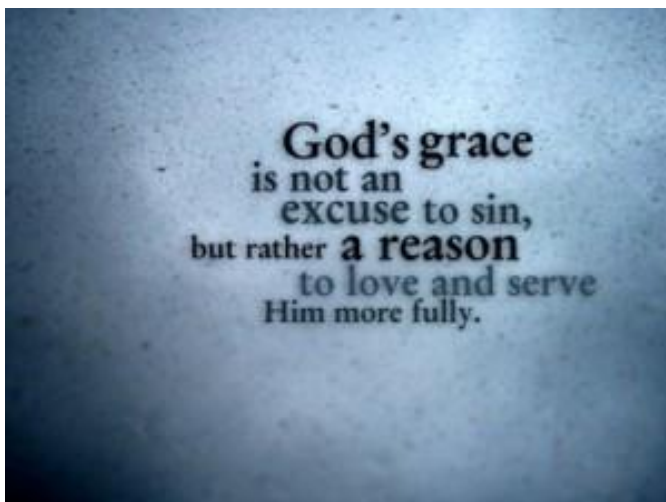
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

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.



In the second chapter of Galatians, the real issue that is concerning Paul is brought to the forefront. Paul has talked about not changing from the Gospel they have been taught, and he has talked about his authority as an apostle, but now the real issue comes up. Paul is concerned that the church is adding works related tasks to the Gospel. The true Gospel is that Christ died for our sins and we are saved by grace through faith. There is no work on our part required for salvation. However, there are still things that we should do as Christians. Throughout Galatians we will start to understand how to balance the freedom we have in Christ with the obligation we have as His followers.



Read Galatians 2:1-10 (NET)

2 Then after fourteen years I went up to Jerusalem again with Barnabas, taking Titus along too. ² I went there because of a revelation and presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did so only in a private meeting with the influential people, to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain. ³ Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, although he was a Greek. ⁴ Now this matter arose because of the false brothers with false pretenses who slipped in unnoticed to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, to make us slaves. ⁵ But we did not surrender to them even for a moment, in order that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

⁶ But from those who were influential (whatever they were makes no difference to me;

God shows no favoritism between people)—those influential leaders added nothing to my message.

⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I was entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised just as Peter was entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who empowered Peter for his apostleship to the circumcised also empowered me for my apostleship to the Gentiles) ⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who had a reputation as pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we would go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They requested only that we remember the poor, the very thing I also was eager to do.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

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

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why does Paul return to Jerusalem?

9. a. How does circumcision relate to the Gospel?

b. How does it relate to following the law?

10. Why did some people believe that all Christians should be circumcised?

11. Why does Paul say it is not necessary for Christians to be circumcised?

12. What truth of the Gospel is Paul defending?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. If we believe in the Gospel are there things that we are obligated to do?

14. How do we balance our freedom in the Gospel with the commandments that we find in the teaching of Christ?

15. How do we explain to a non-believer that we are saved by faith, not by works, but that there are things that all Christians are told to do?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

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

SERMON NOTES