

Justification by Faith

Part II

I No Longer Live

Galatians 2:15-21

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Setting

- Roman Province of Galatia
- Church established by Paul – Gentile Believers
- Infiltrated by Judaic believers teaching the Law as essential

So Far

- Paul established his authority and clear message
- gospel the good news that the privilege of getting right with God was purchased fully when Christ died for our sins and rose again, and the only way to enjoy this privilege is to live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us

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Last Week

- Peter is confronted
- **Acts 10:11-14** ***“¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” ¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” ¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.”***
- **vs. 28** ***“He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean”***

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Galatians 2:15-21...

“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

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1. Clear about Foundation vs. 15-16

- we are unified in faith – Christ and work on Cross
- we are unified in theology – justification by faith alone cannot be made right with God through obedience, ethnicity, works or legalism
- we need to be consistent with behaviour – live this way

a) terms sinful and sinner

- using their language in the argument
- limited sense –
 - Jews believed their adherence to Law made them right before God
 - Viewed Gentiles and non-adherence to law, called them sinners

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b) Justification

- law vs. Faith – train track analogy (Piper)

2. Clear About Questions vs. 17-18

- already knows the objection that is coming
- this will put us in the law neglecting category! ‘sinners’
- issue – is following Christ causing us to then ‘sin’
- Piper quotation
- See Romans 6:1-14

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3. Call to Continue vs. 19-21

a) Dead to Self and Sin

- knowing I don't deserve it
- knowing I can't work for it, earn it
- knowing I am guilty – stand condemned
- * see Christ in my place – taking my punishment, paying what I could never pay
- * repent – accept His work for me
- * the old me – gone, crucified with Christ

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b) Christ Lives in Me

- made alive – regeneration
- standing clean before God – just as if I never sinned
- having the Holy Spirit – enable me to live up to standing

* The life I now live has:

- power and purpose
- faith in the Son of God: loved me, gave self for me
- fully surrendered to his leading and work in my life

* look to Christ for – protection, motivation, courage, direction, enablement. Walking in joy, peace and righteousness

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So What?

1. Examine Your Foundation

- doesn't matter who you are, how good, how bad, status
- cannot earn or deserve God's forgiveness & eternal life
- justified only by faith in Jesus death and resurrection
 - * have you added to that?
 - * believed you need to make yourself acceptable by.....
 - * been deceived that you accepted because your better than others?

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2. Examine Your Convictions

- have you been ladder building?
- have you become judgmental towards others believing they must evidence your convictions to be acceptable to God?
- are you open to others challenging you on this?

3. Determine to Continue

- dying to self – daily crucified with Christ
- allowing Christ in You to lead
- living as a recipient of that incredible grace