

Galatians 2.11-21

Living Justified



BASEBALL – Sport Many in Room might NOT Understand

AMERICA’S ‘National Past-Time’- Games Take a LONG TIME

Bob Gibson: 1 Best PITCHERS in Baseball – St. Louis Cardinals

1959 – Won Game for Team – Boarded TEAM BUS to go HOME

WHITE Teammate drinking Cold Soda Pop, Gibson asked DRINK

Chatter on Bus Silenced, Whole Team listened for Answer

“Oh...Sure! You can FINISH the REST when I am DONE”

Whole Team Got Message: Not gonna put WHITE Lips back on Bottle after Gibson

1. The Gospel Announced

So Far in Galatians > Paul’s RIGHT to be a MESSENGER of JESUS CHRIST

FINAL Proof of Paul’s Apostolic Authority: RIGHT to Rebuke Fellow Apostle

NOW: Paul’s CAREFUL Explanation of the MESSAGE – **Work of Jesus Christ**

ISSUE 2000 yrs Ago in Rome – Issue Today – How to GET RIGHT with God?

Most BASIC Question of Human Race – How to Quiet my GUILTY Soul?

Probably OLDEST Book of the Bible – JOB – Same Question was ASKED:

How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman
be pure?
Job 25.4

v. 16 we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

JUSTIFICATION – 1st Mention in Letter – 3 X’s in 3 Different Ways in 1 Verse

a. General – Deliberately VAGUE ‘a person’ – Any Man, Woman, Boy, Girl

v. 16 we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ

EPITAPH Inscribed on FIRST Century Tomb of JEWISH Woman:

Here lies Regina...She will live again, return to the light again...a real assurance to the worthy and the pious that she has deserved to possess an abode in the hallowed land. This your piety has assured you...For all your deeds your hope for the future is assured. “Jewish Funerary Inscriptions,” Biblical Archeological Review

WE KNOW: Something MOST of WORLD – Many in Church – Do NOT Know

FALSE Teachers who INVADED churches in Galatia after Paul left did NOT know

MOST People pretty CONFIDENT they’re GOOD ENOUGH to Please God

...the religion of the ordinary man both before and since...the religion of the man on the street today...the fundamental principle of every religious and moral system in the world except New Testament Christianity. It is popular because it is flattering...try a bit harder, he will succeed in winning his own salvation. But it is a fearful delusion. It is the biggest lie of the biggest liar the world has ever known, the devil...
John Stott

LAW of MOSES was NEVER INTENDED to SAVE ANYONE

From GARDEN of Eden to NEW EARTH – Salvation by Grace thru Faith Alone

First Reference to FAITH in BIBLE:

Abram believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15.6

the righteous shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2.4 / 3 X’s in NT, Galatians

b. Personal – Must be MORE than CONCEPT but a CONFESSION of our Faith

v. 16 ...so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law

Paul is PRESENTING a DOCTRINE he has TESTED himself / CONFIDENCE

Paul REMINDING Peter that he also was SAVED in this Way TOO!

One can AGREE with Truth of Justification and NOT Trust Christ to be Justified!

And without faith it is impossible to please him Hebrews 11.6

c. Universal – BINDING, ETERNAL, FIXED DECREE of God for ALL People

Even if you FOLLOW the 8-FOLD Path – OBEY the FIVE PILLARS

Have a ZEN Master – Got Sealed in Temple and Wear Funny Underwear

Or do RITUALISTIC CLEANSING in the Ganges River – or Go to Church

v. 16 ...because by works of the law no one will be justified.

People always want to add something they do to what God has done, and they want to look down on people who have not done it, whatever “it” is. Philip Ryken

There is ABSOLUTELY NOTHING we can OFFER a HOLY God for Acceptance

No matter Religious Upbringing/ Educational Bkgrnd / Social Status / Racial Origin

We are simply trying to placate God with sins... Martin Luther

Universal: Quoting from Psalm of David – From 1000 years EARLIER

...for no one living is righteous before you Psalm 143.2

‘Justification’ is a legal term, borrowed from the law courts. It is the exact opposite of ‘condemnation.’ ‘To condemn’ is to declare someone guilty; ‘to justify’ is to declare him not guilty, innocent or righteous. In the Bible it refers to God’s act of unmerited favor by which he puts a sinner right with Himself, not only pardoning or acquitting him, but accepting him and treating him as righteous. John Stott

This is the truth of the gospel. It is also the principle article of Christian doctrine... teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually. Martin Luther, 1535

As PAUL was BEATING this into HEADS – There were ARGUMENTS Raised

2. The Gospel Assailed

CHARGE of Paul's CRITICS: People PROMISED Heaven, they'll live like HELL
 NO POINT in Being GOOD – Justification REMOVES All Moral INCENTIVE
 Like WINNING SPIRITUAL LOTTERY – Who Needs to Ever Work Again??
 Good GOD-Fearing, Moses-Following JEWS are Now Living like Pagan Gentiles

v. 15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners

SINNERS = Outside Boundary of Law – Not in Covenant – No Mosaic Laws
 NOT Emphasizing that they're IMMORAL but AMORAL – No CLEAR Law
 So these Jews NOW EAT Unholy Food with Uncircumcised GENTILES

Today – “Christians are Not Perfect Just Forgiven” > On Car that Cuts you OFF
 BEHAVIOR of Christians often gives WORLD best Excuse NOT to Follow Christ
 ESPECIALLY Pastors! – Often NOT good ADVERTISEMENT for Jesus

At the very root of evangelical Christianity...is the conviction that the word “to justify” means not “to make righteous” but to “declare righteous”...analogous to the act of a judge in pronouncing a sentence of acquittal upon a prisoner at the bar.

J. Gresham Machen

A Christian is not someone who has no sin or feels no sin; he is someone to whom, because of his faith in Christ, God does not impute his sin. Martin Luther

v. 17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!

Critics BLAME CHRIST for Moral Failures of CHRISTIANS

IF we are SINNERS it is OUR FAULT – Not Christ's

v. 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

OT LAW = Torn Down by Preaching Christ / Cannot be RE-BUILT Again

Peter trying to REBUILD with One Hand what he DESTROYED with the Other
 1st Peter preached Salvation by Faith / THEN he Demonstrated Salvation by Works

3. The Gospel Alive

a. Dead to the Law – the Law DID HIM IN – Already put him TO DEATH

In Christ the Law is Destroyed AS A WAY to Get Right with God

v. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

NOTE: The LAW is NOT DYING – Law is ALIVE, GOOD, HOLY, RIGHTEOUS
 PAUL dies with Regard to the Law – PHARISEE who LIVED for the LAW

LAW Demands DEATH those who BREAK IT – Paul Broke It – DEATH Warrant

IF we could SAVE OURSELVES by Law-Keeping CHRIST DIED for NOTHING!

Thinking you CAN SAVE Self – DENIES Reality of Sin & Saving Love of God

Christ DIED our DEATH – In OUR PLACE – OUR Punishment TAKEN by HIM

v. 20 I have been crucified with Christ.

GOOD THING: TRIUMPHANT Statement – ALREADY DEAD to Law > OVER!

NO Longer UNDER its POWER – No CAPTIVITY to It – No CONFIDENCE in It

Paul REMEMBERED Vividly what it was like to be DEAD, LOST, HOPELESS

Jesus appeared in BLINDING GLORY on Damascus Road

SHATTERED his Pharisaical Faith – ALL he know about God UNDERMINED

Sat 3 Days in Damascus Home – No Food, No Sight, Time to Repent & Reconsider

Brother Ananias PRAYED: Eyes Opened, Light Streamed In – NEW Man in Christ

We are to believe he was crucified for us...we must go yet further, and as it were to spread ourselves on the cross of Christ, believing and withal beholding ourselves crucified with him.

William Perkins, 1590

b. Alive in Christ – If HE DIED for US – We are NOW ALIVE in Him

v. 20 ...It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Crucified with Christ = PERFECT Tense / Really and Truly HAPPENED

NOT SUBJECTIVE IDEA but OBJECTIVE EVENT – A REAL DEATH

Union with Christ is the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation. John Murray
 JOINED by Faith: What Christ has DONE, WE've DONE IN Him – United to Him
 HIS Life – Active Obedience / Passive Obedience – Risen – Seated in Heaven

By faith you are so cemented to Christ that He and you are as one person, which cannot be separated but remains attached to Him forever. Martin Luther

v. 17 justified in Christ – NOT just THROUGH Him – By FAITH we are IN HIM

Engrafted into the death of Christ, we derive a secret energy from it, as the shoot does from the root. John Calvin

Paul's ANSWER: to those who ASSAIL the Free, Liberating Gospel of Jesus

Those who FEAR MORAL COLLAPSE if you SET People FREE from FEAR

NOW in Christ EVERYTHING has Changed – Old GONE, New COME in Him

NOT just Change in our LEGAL STANDING > CHANGE Deep INSIDE of Us

How can we LOVE the SIN that SLAYED the LOVER of our SOULS?

How can we REMAIN in DEAD HABITS when we have NEW LIFE in Us?

How can we FOLLOW the WORLD when HE HAS Overcome this WORLD?

NO Going BACK to OLD LIFE – If you are IN CHRIST there is NO OLD Life

If you CANNOT Leave the OLD LIFE, Love Sin, World, Satan > Not in Christ!

Moderns and post-moderns alike are obsessed with themselves. Self-esteem, self-improvement, self-fulfillment, self-indulgence – whatever you want, as long as it begins with your “self”...the Bible announces the death of self...the world no longer revolves around me. I am no longer dominated by thoughts of my own pleasure and prestige. If I have a life at all, it is only the life that Christ lives in me.

Philip Ryken

Question 60. How are thou righteous before God?

Answer: Only by a true faith in Jesus Christ; so that, though my conscience accuse me, that I have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and kept none of them, and am still inclined to all evil; notwithstanding, God, without any merit of mine, but only of mere grace, grants and imputes to me, the perfect satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ; even so, as if I never had had, nor committed any sin: yea, as if I had fully accomplished all that obedience which Christ has accomplished for me; inasmuch as I embrace such benefit with a believing heart.

Heidelberg Catechism,

1563

Necessary THEOLOGICAL Foundation to Understand > Paul’s Meeting w/ Peter

4. The Gospel Acted Out

BIG SHIFT: Paul & Team in Jerusalem – Right Hand of Fellowship from Peter
Maybe said “Hey, come up to ANTIOCH and visit us SOMETIME”

3rd Largest City ROMAN World – Large Population of Jews

Missionary Church of Jews and Gentiles > 1st Called CHRISTIANS in Antioch

Strategic Plan for APOSTLE to JEWS to travel 300 Miles NORTH to Antioch

SHOCK – Apostle Peter gets RIGHT HAND SLAP on FACE from Apostle Paul

STARTED Well – JOYFUL Welcome – Antioch Gentile invited to JOUZHA

Started with HEALTHY Veggie Jouzha – Then Beef, Lamb, PORK & SHRIMP!

Peter kept EATING his WAY into CLOSER Fellowship in GOSPEL w/ Gentiles

Peter GOOD THEOLOGICAL Foundation – HIS OWN Message in Gentile Home
 Peter: “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.”
 Acts 10.28

Sharply

When RETURNED to Jerusalem after Mission to GENTILES > CRITICIZED
 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”
 Acts 11.1-3

Peter WEATHERED that Storm NOBLY – Patiently Stood with Gentile Brothers
 Peter: “...the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction...If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” When they heard these things they fell silent.
 Acts 11.12-17

vs. 12,13 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

JAMES GANG rode into TOWN and ALL THE TROUBLE Started

Paul NOT EXACTLY BLAME James – Trail of Evidence goes Near his Door

Easy EVEN an APOSTLE – Put Tail between Legs and Back Away from Conflict

a. Negatively

Before we criticize Peter, perhaps we had better examine our own lives to see how many familiar Bible doctrines we are actually obeying. Warren Wiersbe

Paul NOT TRYING to make JEWS STOP being JEWISH

A Jewish Christian might keep the ceremonial law on the ground that the gospel was still being offered to the Jewish people...the time had not yet come when the corporate identity of the people should be broken up. But if a Gentile Christian kept the ceremonial law, then, since that ran counter to all national custom and to all the

ordinary considerations of policy, it could scarcely mean anything else than that it was regarded as being necessary to salvation... J. Gresham Machen

ISSUE: Jews must NOT Make GENTILES become JEWISH to Know JESUS

SECONDARY Issues: PUBLIC Sin demands a PUBLIC REBUKE // Matthew 18

RACISM – Separation of Jews from Gentiles SMACKS of Bigotry, Superiority

DIVISION – If UNCHECKED this Separation would lead to CHURCH SPLIT

CLIQUEs – Wrong when Believers fail to SHOW ONENESS we have in CHRIST

FICKLE and FEARFUL Leaders – Peter AND Barnabas were FLIP-FLOPPERS

EMOTIONAL Damage Caused telling Someone “I do NOT Love you Anymore!”

ALL Important Issues – WRONGS that should be RIGHTED in ANY CHURCH

MAIN THING – Reason why Ancient STORY finds way into SACRED Scripture

v. 14 their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel

If the doctrine of justification is lost, the whole of Christian doctrine is lost.

Martin Luther

ACTIONS Speak LOUDER than WORDS – SEE Message before HEAR Message

“WE are the ONLY BIBLE some People will EVER READ!”

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody.

2 Corinthians 3.2

I...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

Ephesians 4.1

Sometimes we can make HONEST Mistake – Still Wrong, Not Intentional

Peter not Honest but HYPOCRITICAL = Greek Actor’s Mask to Change Identity

RIGHT Wing Jewish Christian Conservatives from JAMES GANG Scared Peter

GRADUALLY – He hoped UNNOTICED – Began to Pull Away from Gentiles
 More than going out for BURGERS & COKES – Agape Meal led to Lord’s Supper
 MEALS times HOLY CONVOCATION – Jesus knocks on DOOR & Enters to Eat!
 Thru BIBLE > MEAL Time was MINISTRY Time – Celebration of SHALOM!
 SEPARATE but EQUAL – Meals & Meetings – BETRAYAL of BODY of Christ
 Unless we are willing to stand up for God at work on Monday, we are just
 pretending at church on Sunday. Philip Ryken

b. Positively – Paul CARED ENOUGH to Confront / More American than Chinese

Peter’s ambiguous behaviour was playing right into their hands, and Paul wanted to
 shock him into seeing this clearly. R. Alan Cole

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three
 witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that
 the rest may stand in fear. 1 Timothy 5.19,20

Paul PRACTICED what he PREACHED: People Then & Now say AWKWARD!

CHURCH Leaders have been REALLY WRONG and Results DISASTROUS
 Church of Middle Ages called for KILLING of Muslims & Turks in CRUSADES
 Church Leaders in USA gave THEOLOGICAL Support for SLAVERY
 Church Leaders SOUTH AFRICA developed DOCTRINE of APARTEID
 Church Leaders RWANDA provoked HUTU & TUTSI to KILL Eachother
 Smaller Scale – 1000’s BLAME – Church, Pastor, Christian for Refusal to Believe
 MANY Blame their REFUSAL to Follow Christ on OUR OWN HYPOCRISY
 Sinners Guilt will Condemn Them / OUR Guilt: Failing to SHOW them JESUS

I think STRONGEST Biblical / Historical Evidence this is BEFORE – Acts 15
 Paul PROBABLY in ANTIOCH while WRITING this Letter to GALATIA

Soon will make 3rd Trip to Jerusalem for COUNCIL with Church Leaders
 Answer False Teachers that Troubled – Galatia and Antioch
 Stop those who TRIED to Steal Gentile’s FREEDOM in Christ

There in Jerusalem – In Presence of Paul, Barnabas, and James – Peter said:

“Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”
 Acts 15.7-11



From 1860-65 600,000 Americans died in the Civil War. A war fought for several reasons, one was the right to own slaves. One Sunday shortly after the war ended, services were held in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Richmond, Va. – the capital city of the defeated Confederacy. The blacks in church were seated at the back, as was the custom of the time. Their former white masters were seated in front. When the minister called for Holy Communion, a black man advanced to the communion rail. The congregation was stunned. Usually whites received communion first. After a moment, a white man kneels down with silent dignity to take communion along the same rail with the black man. Watching the scene, the other communicants, both white and black, slowly move forward to the altar with a mixture of reluctance and fear, hope and awkward expectation. The white man who first joined his black brother was General Robert E. Lee, Commander of the defeated Confederate Army. Lee had said that he rejoiced that slavery was dead. But this action indicates that those were not idle words meant to placate the North. Here among his people, he led wordlessly through example. Racial hatred had just about destroyed America. Robert E. Lee took a daring step for healing that day.

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" 15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. 17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.