

## **Bible Study Guide: Galatians 2:16**

**Theme:** Justified by Faith Alone

### **Scripture**

*"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." (Galatians 2:16)*

### **Background**

Paul wrote to the Galatian churches to confront false teachers who claimed that faith in Jesus was not enough for salvation. They taught that believers also needed to follow the Jewish law to be accepted by God. Paul firmly rejected this teaching and declared that people are justified—made right with God—through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

### **Key Truths**

#### **1. No One Can Earn Salvation**

Paul clearly states that no one is justified by keeping the law. No amount of good works, religious activity, or personal effort can remove sin or make us righteous before God.

**Key Thought:** Salvation cannot be earned; it is received as a gift.

## **2. Justification Comes Through Faith in Christ**

To be justified means to be declared righteous before God. This righteousness comes through trusting in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

**Key Thought:** Faith in Christ is the only basis for our acceptance before God.

## **3. Grace Replaces Self-Reliance**

Many people try to earn God's favor through their own efforts. Paul teaches that believers must depend completely on God's grace rather than their own performance.

**Key Thought:** We are saved by what Christ has done, not by what we do.

## **4. Faith Produces a Changed Life**

Although good works do not save us, genuine faith leads to obedience and spiritual growth. Good works are the result of salvation, not the cause of it.

**Key Thought:** We work from salvation, not for salvation.

## **Reflection Questions**

1. What does it mean to be justified before God?
2. Why do people often try to earn God's acceptance?
3. How does faith in Christ differ from relying on good works?
4. Are there areas of your life where you are trusting your own efforts instead of God's grace?
5. How does this verse give you confidence in your relationship with God?

## **Application**

Spend time thanking God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Reflect on areas where you may be measuring your worth by performance rather than by God's grace. Practice resting in the truth that your acceptance before God is based on Christ's finished work.

## **Prayer**

Father, thank You for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank You that I am not saved by my works but by Your grace through faith. Help me to trust fully in Christ and not in my own efforts. Teach me to live in the freedom and assurance that comes from being justified by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Cross References**

- Romans 3:28
- Romans 5:1
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Philippians 3:9
- Titus 3:5

## **Memory Verse**

*"A person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16)*