

# Galatians 2 – 10 July 2022

## “Contending For Justification By Faith”

### Introduction

- \*Written to a region of churches in what is modern day central Turkey
- \*Theme of Book: Self-merit can never justify man, who is sinful by nature, in the presence of God, who is holy by nature
- \*Galatians Outlined
  - \*Chap 1-2 – **Jockeying** for justification by faith
  - \*Chap 3-4 – **Basis** of justification by faith
  - \*Chap 5-6 – **Fallout** from justification by faith
- \*Chap 1 we saw that in every epoch of time (Creation, Law, Christ), it's God who initiated & completed the work, we just simply preach what He's done
- \*Now in chap 2, Paul shows all the ways that he contended for the faith, as an example for us
- \***So today, here's 3 ways we too should be contending for the faith**

# **1<sup>st</sup> way is to live & teach justification by faith alone openly without changing it (Vs 1-10)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. After 1<sup>st</sup> M.T. Paul went to Jerusalem about the question of the need to be circumcised
2. If Paul needed to correct the leaders regarding a spiritual decision, he wanted to do it privately

Read Vs 3-5

1. The Gospel that the grace of Jesus' cross has our sins forgiven
  - a. The truth of the Gospel gives liberty freeing us from bondage
  - b. Anything added to Jesus' grace is false & you become known as false brethren
    - i. Read Act 15:1, 5, 24
2. Paul lived 'justification by faith' in front of the other Apostles & they didn't disagree
  - a. Paul brought unity
  - b. Paul brought the truth no matter the cost

## Read Vs 6

1. Paul didn't get the Gospel from other Apostles
2. Nor did anyone of special leadership change or add to what he was preaching

## Read Vs 7-10

1. They had mutual respect for the work that God was clearly doing in each of their lives
  - a. It was evident Paul was to especially serve the Gentiles as James, Peter & John were to especially serve the Jews
  - b. Peter wasn't the 1<sup>st</sup> Pope; in fact he had an emphasis on serving the Jews
    - i. He wasn't even the leader of the Jerusalem Church, James was
2. Jerusalem Apostles asked for no Law, but just a principle of love, to remember the ones who are struggling financially
3. So we see that no one spoke against Paul's lifestyle of living out justification by faith alone

## **2<sup>nd</sup> way is to correct others' works-based false Christianity (Vs 11-14)**

Read Vs 11-12

1. Notice again that they were sent by James as the leader of the Jerusalem church
2. These certain men were Jewish Christians (the circumcision)
3. Paul says Peter was to be blamed b/c he began treating the Gentiles as a different class of Christians or not as Christians at all
  - a. Peter should have known better (Acts 10-11, 15)
  - b. Peter is weak spiritually here
    - i. He's thinking he could avoid a conflict by separating
    - ii. Compromise doesn't avoid conflict, it actually creates it
  - c. Don't become fearful & walk in a works-based religion

## Read Vs 13

1. Paul dealt w/ this sin by withstanding Peter to the face
  - a. Why so publicly?
  - b. B/c others were learning sin
2. Read Jam 3:1 – Sins of teachers are the teachers of sin
3. Read I Tim 5:19-20 – “that others may learn”
4. Sometimes we’re so concerned about the potential of being unloving to the false teacher or the misguided on that we forget the victims that just heard & learned to do sinfully

## Read Vs 14

1. Justification by faith is essential & must be fought for
2. Passivity is acceptance of another gospel (1:7)
3. Jude 3 – earnestly contend for the faith

4. This isn't fighting *against* a person; this is fighting *for* the truth of what Jesus did for us

### **3<sup>rd</sup> way is to not go back to dead works-based religion (Vs 15-21)**

Read Vs 15-16

1. "We who are observant Jews since birth" know that the Law doesn't justify, it only condemns
  - a. Read Rom 3:19
2. Faith in Jesus Christ's work is only thing that justifies
  - a. Justify – "Just as if I'd never sinned"

Read Vs 17

1. Since we Jews sought to be justified by Jesus, this shows that we too acknowledge that we're sinners
2. Does that mean Jesus makes us sinners?
  - a. No, He's the solution for sinners

Read Vs 18

1. If we go back to trying to earn our justification, then that means that we go back to being sinners

Read Vs 19-20a

1. The Law proves one to be dead, it's only when you count yourself dead that you're free to be bonded to another in marriage
  - a. Read Rom 7:1-4 – This is one of the reasons that divorce isn't God's will, b/c it violates the picture of death being what separates us from the Law and now free to marry Christ
2. The born-new life we have was generated in us by the Holy Spirit
  - a. Read Tit 3:4-7
  - b. This time we live w/ the power to love God

Read Vs 20b-21

1. Living in a works-based religion is to cast aside the grace and love of God
2. If we have to work for our justification then Christ died for no reason, it was meaningless

## Conclusion

So we are justified by believing that what Jesus did on the cross was sufficient & complete to save our souls

1. **Do we live and teach justification by faith?**
  - a. It should be evident that we're resting in the peace of the assurance of being unity w/ God
2. **Do we correct others' works-based false Christianity when it appears?**
  - a. Stop worrying about what the one saying the error thinks and start worrying for the victims of the error
3. **Do we keep ourselves from sliding back to dead works-based religion?**
  - a. Rich & loving man comes to the door of a poor, starving farmer
  - b. Man offers farmer a truckload full of food
  - c. Farmer refuses the gift & returns to working in the sweaty field



d. Farmer isn't neutral toward the man, he has despised the man – don't despise Jesus